

## D.8 Public Hearing Transcripts

### D.8.1 Transcript from the Holloman Air Force Base Public Hearing Held February 7, 2012, in Weed, New Mexico

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PUBLIC HEARING  
U.S. AIR FORCE F-35A TRAINING BASING  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE

February 7, 2012  
6:00 p.m.  
Weed Community Center  
16 Weed Road  
Weed, New Mexico

REPORTED BY: Rose C. Harms, RPR, NM CCR #54

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A P P E A R A N C E S

Hearing Officer:

COLONEL RON GREGORY

For the Air Force:

COLONEL KEVIN HUYCK  
Vice Commander, 49th Wing  
Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico

MAJOR BRIAN MacFARLAND  
Air Education and Training Command

MR. DAVID MARTIN

MS. KIM FORNOF

Also Present:

MR. ZACH RILEY  
Field Representative, Congressman Pearce

MS. ELIZABETH DRIGGERS  
Field Representative, Senator Udall

MS. DARA PARKER  
Field Representative, Senator Bingaman

MR. RONNY RARDIN  
Otero County Commission

Community Speakers:

Ross Cunningham	Rob Shepler
Ellen Kazor	Jeff Duncan
Tom Smith	John Conner
Walt Coffman	Tom Ward
Don Tracy	Jennifer Fountain
Stephen Cook	Less Rinderknecht
Sandra Hunt	

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Final  
June 2012

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## P R O C E E D I N G S

COLONEL GREGORY: This public hearing into the proposed establishment of the Pilot Training Center with the F-35A training aircraft is convened for the purpose of taking Mr. Cunningham's statement.

He arrived early this evening and is unable to stay, but he wants to get his comment on the record, and so that's why we're doing this a little bit out of order here. We want to give him a chance to make his comment on the record.

So the hearing is convened for that purpose, and I've explained to Mr. Cunningham that I've got to treat him like all other speakers, and we'll do it in three minutes, and the floor is yours, sir.

3000 HO

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Thank you. I want to say we appreciate the service you do and the work that all of our servicemen are doing. We encourage the testing of this airplane. We don't feel that that's the problem.

What we have a problem with is, we're rural. We have livestock, horses. They get spooked quite easily whenever there are unannounced flyovers. I am concerned specifically for Camp of the Tall Pines. They do quite a bit of work with cancer kids. They bring them up, and they mount them on horses.

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cont'd

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1           These children are already sick, so they don't  
2   want the horses spooked while the kids are on them,  
3   basically. That's the whole concern, because,  
4   obviously, these are unexperienced riders. Therefore,  
5   if there is going to be a flyover, we would hope that we  
6   would get somewhat of an advanced warning, even just a  
7   notice, so that all of us could check in. For example,  
8   perhaps between 8:00 and 10:00 in the morning, or  
9   whatever times, there might be a sonic boom. That way  
10   we could be better prepared to help hold or restrain  
11   horses, you know, keep children away from dangerous  
12   areas.

13           I know it's probably impossible to get kind of a  
14   heads up, but we're hoping for something like that.  
15   That's all I have to say. Thank you.

16           COLONEL GREGORY: All right. Let me close  
17   this out by giving you some information that I will give  
18   everyone else. As you saw, your comments are recorded  
19   verbatim. They'll be included in the final published  
20   version of the Environmental Impact Statement. Your  
21   name will be included, along with your comments. Your  
22   personal home address and phone number will not be  
23   published, obviously.

24           And one more point: If you think of something  
25   else that you would like to add to your comments, you

1   can submit your comments in writing either tonight or by  
2   fax, e-mail, anytime by March 14th, 2012. That's the  
3   deadline. You can speak with the lady out there at the  
4   registration desk. She may have already given you a  
5   comment form and an information sheet that tells you  
6   where to send your comments. And, again, the deadline  
7   for that is March 14th of this year if you have  
8   something else you would like to add.

9           MR. CUNNINGHAM: Thank you.

10           COLONEL GREGORY: We'll adjourn this part of  
11   it.

12           (Recess taken from 5:13 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.,  
13   and the formal hearing began as follows:)

14           COLONEL GREGORY: The time is now 6:00 p.m.  
15   We'll go ahead and start the formal part of tonight's  
16   hearing. Thanks for coming out tonight to this public  
17   hearing for the F-35A Training Basing Environmental  
18   Impact Statement. That's a mouthful. "EIS" is commonly  
19   said. You've probably seen that abbreviation.

20           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can't hear you.

21           COLONEL GREGORY: Having trouble hearing?  
22   Let's see. Sorry about that. We'll take it from the  
23   top.

24           Thanks for coming out tonight to this public  
25   hearing for the F-35A training Environmental Impact

1 Statement, and that's commonly called EIS, and you've  
2 probably seen that acronym floating around in the  
3 brochures.

4 I'm Colonel Ron Gregory. I'll be your hearing  
5 officer tonight. I'm a judge on the Air Force Court of  
6 Criminal Appeals back in D.C., and I sometimes assist  
7 with hearings like this.

8 I don't work for anybody at Holloman Air Force  
9 Base or Air Education and Training Command. I'm not  
10 involved in any way with the development of this draft  
11 EIS, and I don't act as a legal advisor to any of these  
12 people that are involved in it.

13 My role in the hearing tonight is simply to  
14 ensure, as an impartial moderator, that we have a fair,  
15 orderly hearing and that you have an opportunity to  
16 voice your comments on the proposals.

17 With me over at the table where I'll be sitting  
18 is Ms. Rose Harms. She'll be transcribing tonight's  
19 hearing, and so your comments that you'll be making  
20 later will be recorded verbatim.

21 We're here tonight because the Air Force is  
22 analyzing the environmental impacts of the proposed  
23 establishment of a Pilot Training Center with the F-35A  
24 training aircraft. The hearing is held in accordance  
25 with regulations of the National Environmental Policy

1 Act and regulations published by the Council on  
2 Environmental Quality.

3 The purpose of the hearing is to receive your  
4 comments on the draft EIS. Tonight's hearing is just  
5 one of several opportunities for public comments.  
6 Please keep in mind that the hearing is not a debate,  
7 it's not a vote on the draft EIS, and it's not a  
8 question-and-answer session. The hearing is an  
9 opportunity for you to express your views and concerns  
10 about the adequacy of the environmental analysis and the  
11 potential environmental impact associated with the  
12 proposal, as well as any issues that might be related to  
13 the National Historic Preservation Act process.

14 Comments about other unrelated issues won't  
15 assist the decision-making process. During the first  
16 part of the hearing, Air Force representatives will  
17 provide you with information about the project and the  
18 environmental impact analysis process.

19 We have with us tonight Colonel Kevin Huyck of  
20 Holloman Air Force Base; and from Air Education and  
21 Training Command, Major Brian MacFarland; Mr. David  
22 Martin, an Air Force contractor; and Ms. Kim Fornof.

23 If it looks like we're reading things to you  
24 tonight, it's because we are. A lot of this is written  
25 out so that we make sure that we cover all the



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1 information for you.

2 Let me, before I proceed, get some names over  
3 here. I just want to mention that we have with us  
4 tonight Mr. Zach Riley, a field representative with  
5 Congressman Pearce; we have Mr. Ronny Rardin, Otero  
6 County Commissioner; from Senator Udall's office,  
7 Ms. Elizabeth Driggers; and from Senator Bingaman's  
8 office, Ms. Dara Parker.

9 After the presentations by these folks to my  
10 left, I'll open the floor for your comments. If you'd  
11 like to make a statement on the record here tonight,  
12 your comments will provide the decision makers the  
13 benefit of your knowledge of the local area and your  
14 concerns about the environmental analysis.

15 At this point, I'll turn the presentation over to  
16 Colonel Huyck from Holloman Air Force Base. Colonel.

17 COLONEL HUYCK: Good evening, everyone, and  
18 thank you for coming tonight. I'm Colonel Kevin Huyck,  
19 the Vice Commander of Holloman Air Force Base. I'd like  
20 to welcome you to this public hearing for the F-35A  
21 Basing Environmental Impact Statement, or as was  
22 mentioned, the EIS.

23 Hopefully, you had the opportunity to talk to  
24 many of the knowledgeable experts staffing the position  
25 stations in the back to learn more about the Air Force's

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1 proposal, which is to establish a Pilot Training Center  
2 with the F-35A training aircraft at one or more Air  
3 Force or Air National Guard installations.

4 Four alternative locations are evaluated in this  
5 EIS, one of them being Holloman Air Force Base. Next  
6 slide.

7 To review the agenda for tonight, I'll give a  
8 brief overview of Holloman Air Force Base, and then  
9 Major MacFarland will discuss the F-35A training program  
10 and the aircraft. Next, Mr. David Martin will provide  
11 review of the environmental impact analysis process and  
12 the results specific to Holloman Air Force Base as an  
13 alternative. The last item on the agenda is the most  
14 important. It's your public-comment session, your  
15 opportunity to provide information and make statements  
16 for the record, and I encourage you to do so.

17 This is one of three public hearings the Air  
18 Force is holding in our region. The Air Force is  
19 holding a total of 13 public hearings to ensure that the  
20 public has ample opportunity to learn about and to  
21 comment on the F-35A Training Basing EIS.

22 Before we tell you about this comprehensive EIS  
23 process and the analysis, I'd like to first provide an  
24 overview of Holloman Air Force Base, our mission and  
25 operations.

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1 Holloman Air Force Base is home to the 49th Wing  
 2 and hosts German Air Force training and various test  
 3 programs, including the world's longest rail test track.  
 4 The base currently supports approximately 21,000 active-  
 5 duty Reserve and National Guard personnel, along with  
 6 retirees, Department of Defense personnel and their  
 7 family members.

8 Holloman Air Force Base covers nearly 60,000  
 9 acres and has a rich history dating back to the 1940s,  
 10 when the base served as training grounds before  
 11 personnel were deployed to the Pacific and European  
 12 theaters.

13 Today the 49th Wing supports national security  
 14 objectives by providing combat-ready airmen that are  
 15 prepared to deploy worldwide to support peacetime and  
 16 wartime contingencies. Several different aircraft  
 17 operate from Holloman Air Force Base. Holloman hosts  
 18 the MQ-1/MQ-9 and F-22 aircraft.

19 In 2010, the Air Force announced plans to  
 20 consolidate the F-22 fleet to other installations. The  
 21 basing of the F-16 training mission is scheduled for  
 22 Holloman Air Force Base following the departure of the  
 23 F-22s.

24 This figure shows the training airspace and  
 25 ranges that are regularly used by Holloman Air Force

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1 Base. This training airspace includes military  
 2 operations areas, military training routes, restricted  
 3 areas, and air-traffic-control-assigned airspace. This  
 4 map is also available in the handouts that you receive  
 5 tonight.

6 As part of our ongoing operations and activities,  
 7 we implement a variety of protective measures to  
 8 minimize the impact of noise on our region and the  
 9 environment from training activities. We're proud of  
 10 these efforts and our achievements.

11 Because of the many attributes that Holloman Air  
 12 Force Base offers, our installation is one of the four  
 13 locations under consideration for the siting of an F-35A  
 14 Pilot Training Center and training aircraft.

15 I will now turn the presentation over to Major  
 16 MacFarland to discuss the F-35A training program and  
 17 aircraft.

18 MAJOR MacFARLAND: Thank you, Colonel Huyck.  
 19 My name is Brian MacFarland. I am an F-16 instructor  
 20 pilot with the Air Education and Training Command, but  
 21 I'm going to talk to you about the F-35.

22 The F-35A aircraft is an outcome of the Joint  
 23 Strike Fighter Program, which is a joint, multinational  
 24 program among the United States Air Force, Navy, Marine  
 25 Corps, and nine international partners.

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1 The Joint Strike Fighter Program merged several  
2 independent government projects working on next-  
3 generation strike aircraft. The goal was to build an  
4 affordable universal fighter that would meet the needs  
5 of all participants. Three versions of the strike  
6 fighter were developed to meet the varying operational  
7 needs of the military services. The Air Force version  
8 of the aircraft is the F-35A, which is the conventional  
9 takeoff and landing model of the F-35.

10 The F-35A is absolutely essential to the nation's  
11 security strategy. It is the newest and most advanced  
12 fifth-generation fighter and is needed to deter and  
13 defeat 21st Century threats.

14 The F-35A is intended to be the Air Force's  
15 premier strike aircraft through the first half of the  
16 21st Century, offering low visibility, close- and  
17 long-range air-to-ground and air-to-air capability,  
18 enhanced precision-strike capability, and sophisticated  
19 electronic warfare capabilities.

20 The multifaceted F-35A would fulfill the wide  
21 range of roles and missions currently conducted by the  
22 F-16 and the A-10 aircraft and would also complement the  
23 F-22 aircraft.

24 The F-35A is more effective than current fighter  
25 aircraft in air-to-ground combat, air-to-air combat,

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1 reconnaissance and suppression of air defenses and has a  
2 better range while requiring less logistics support.

3 Features of the aircraft that make it a cutting-  
4 edge aircraft are affordability, low visibility,  
5 supportability, and weapons. The F-35A is actually  
6 designed to cost 40 to 50 percent less to operate and  
7 support than comparable current-generation aircraft.

8 The Air Force has evaluated the potential  
9 environmental impacts associated with the proposed  
10 basing of F-35A training aircraft. For more information  
11 about the environmental impact analysis process and  
12 findings, I will now turn the presentation over to  
13 Mr. David Martin.

14 MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Major MacFarland.  
15 My name is David Martin, and I'm a contractor with the  
16 Air Education and Training Command and a project manager  
17 for the F-35A Training Basing Environmental Impact  
18 Statement.

19 The draft EIS was prepared by the Air Force to  
20 comply with the National Environmental Policy Act or  
21 "NEPA." This draft EIS represents compliance with NEPA  
22 and is an important part of the Air Force's overall  
23 commitment to environmental stewardship.

24 The EIS was initiated in December of 2009. An  
25 early part of the EIS process included 23 public scoping

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1 meetings, seven of which were held in New Mexico, to  
 2 enable the public to provide input on the proposed  
 3 action, the alternatives under consideration, and  
 4 environmental resources and issues to be analyzed.

5 Government agencies, elected officials, tribes,  
 6 community and environmental organizations and  
 7 individuals were encouraged to submit comments at the  
 8 scoping meetings or to provide written comments  
 9 throughout the scoping period. The comments received  
 10 were considered in the preparation of the draft EIS.

11 This draft EIS is the result of extensive  
 12 analysis and consideration of public and agency comments  
 13 received during the scoping period. It is a complex and  
 14 comprehensive document, so I would like to provide an  
 15 overview of what it includes and the findings.

16 A no-action alternative and a proposed action are  
 17 analyzed in the draft EIS. NEPA requires that federal  
 18 agencies consider a no-action alternative when preparing  
 19 an EIS.

20 In this particular instance, under the no-action  
 21 alternative, the establishment of a Pilot Training  
 22 Center and basing of an F-35A aircraft would not take  
 23 place at all. No F-35A personnel changes or  
 24 construction would be performed, and no F-35A training  
 25 activities would be conducted.

1 At each alternative location, the no-action  
 2 alternative constitutes baseline conditions and allows  
 3 decision makers to compare the magnitude of the effects  
 4 of no action to the effects of the proposed action.

5 As mentioned, the proposed action is to establish  
 6 a Pilot Training Center with associated basing of F-35A  
 7 training aircraft at one or more Air Force or Air  
 8 National Guard installations.

9 Installations with adequate military airspace and  
 10 facilities are needed to accommodate the training of the  
 11 F-35A pilots and personnel. Training would include the  
 12 use of flare countermeasures and supersonic flight as  
 13 permitted in authorized airspace. Training would also  
 14 include the use of munitions at approved military ranges  
 15 and the use of auxiliary airfields to diversify  
 16 training.

17 So this EIS looks at four basing locations. Each  
 18 location for the F-35A training basing is an alternative  
 19 for the purpose of this EIS.

20 Alternative F-35A training basing locations are:  
 21 Boise Air Guard Station in Idaho, Holloman Air Force  
 22 Base here in New Mexico, Luke Air Force Base in Arizona,  
 23 and Tucson International Airport Air Guard Station in  
 24 Arizona.

25 The Air Force evaluated the potential

1 environmental impacts of establishing the F-35A Pilot  
2 Training Center and Aircraft Training Squadrons at each  
3 of these alternative locations. The Air Force analyzed  
4 the impacts of basing increments of 24 aircraft, from 24  
5 to 144 aircraft, depending on capacity at the candidate  
6 location.

7 Currently, the Air Force's preferred alternative  
8 is to base the Pilot Training Center with 72 F-35A  
9 training aircraft at Luke Air Force Base; however, no  
10 decisions regarding the proposal will be made until  
11 after the environmental impact analysis process is  
12 complete.

13 The environmental analysis for Holloman Air Force  
14 Base was conducted using eight aircraft basing  
15 scenarios, as we see up here. Three of these scenarios  
16 included basing from 24 to 72 F-35A aircraft with the  
17 assigned F-16 training mission. Five additional  
18 scenarios were assessed for planning purposes. These  
19 scenarios, without the F-16 training mission, include  
20 basing from 24 up to 120 F-35A aircraft. Again, this  
21 information is provided in the printed materials you  
22 have and throughout the stations in the back.

23 F-35A flight training activities would take place  
24 at Holloman Air Force Base in existing military airspace  
25 and only in existing military ranges. No modifications

1 to airspace would be required, and proposed training  
2 activities would be consistent with existing airspace  
3 operations.

4 The Air Force analyzed potential environmental  
5 consequences associated with changes in personnel,  
6 construction, or renovation of facilities, and new  
7 training activities in existing military airspace,  
8 ranges, and at auxiliary airfields to support F-35A  
9 training aircraft if based at Holloman. Auxiliary  
10 airfields included in the analysis are the Roswell  
11 International Air Center, Biggs Army Airfield, and the  
12 El Paso International Airport.

13 Specific resource categories evaluated in the  
14 Environmental Impact Statement are listed up here.

15 Extensive details about the evaluation of each of  
16 these resource areas can be found in a draft EIS and its  
17 summary fact sheet distributed here tonight. Public  
18 comments received during the scoping period conducted in  
19 2010 mainly concentrated on potential noise impact to  
20 the community, so with that said, we'd like to spend  
21 some additional time on that particular topic tonight.

22 What you're looking at up here is a noise contour  
23 map for areas surrounding Holloman Air Force Base for  
24 baseline conditions and for each of the F-35A aircraft  
25 basing scenarios.

1 The blue line on the map shows the baseline  
 2 conditions of 50 F-16 aircraft, and these subsequent  
 3 contours represent the eight aircraft basing scenarios.  
 4 The noise contours reflect the 65-decibel day-night  
 5 average sound level -- or DNL -- which is a sound level  
 6 averaged over a 24-hour period with an adjustment for  
 7 late-night noises. 65-decibel DNL is a threshold above  
 8 which certain land uses, such as residential, are not  
 9 considered compatible by the Federal Aviation  
 10 Administration or the Air Force without measures to  
 11 ensure that interior noise level goals are met.

12 The Air Force analyzed the noise effects  
 13 associated with training activities on human annoyance  
 14 and health; and physical effects on structures, and  
 15 biological, land use, socioeconomic, and cultural  
 16 resources.

17 Sound levels were analyzed for noise-sensitive  
 18 locations, which include on- and off-installation  
 19 schools, hospitals, and places of worship. The  
 20 methodology used to assess and quantify noise impacts is  
 21 more thoroughly described in the draft EIS, and we  
 22 encourage you to review it in greater detail and ask as  
 23 many questions as you like throughout the process here  
 24 tonight.

25 The analysis indicates that under all eight F-35A

1 basing scenarios, no additional residents would be  
 2 affected by noise levels greater than 65-decibel DNL.  
 3 The number of acres nearer the airfield affected by  
 4 noise levels greater than 65-decibel DNL would increase,  
 5 except under basing Scenario H1. Please refer to the  
 6 fact sheet you received tonight for more information on  
 7 that.

8 As shown previously, this is the map of the  
 9 training airspace and ranges regularly used by Holloman  
 10 Air Force Base. This training airspace includes  
 11 military operation areas, military training routes,  
 12 restricted areas, and air-traffic-control-assigned air  
 13 spaces.

14 I saw a hand go up a second ago, and we're going  
 15 to take comments in a minute, so after we finish this  
 16 presentation, then you'll be able to come up and make  
 17 comments.

18 The F-35A training operations could increase  
 19 subsonic noise levels on areas under training airspace.  
 20 Noise created by aircraft exceeding the speed of sound  
 21 -- or going supersonic -- would not change significantly  
 22 from the baseline F-16 supersonic operations identified  
 23 in the draft EIS and would occur under airspace  
 24 currently approved for supersonic training.

25 Sonic booms created by the F-35A are expected to

1 be less intense than the F-22 and slightly more intense  
2 than the F-16. The F-35A aircraft is not as likely to  
3 go supersonic as often as the F-22.

4 Noise impacts from inert munitions training at  
5 the Red Rio, Centennial, and Oscura Ranges would be  
6 similar to the baseline F-16 conditions and are not  
7 expected to be significant.

8 The Air Force would continue to adhere to all  
9 existing FAA and local avoidance procedures, flight  
10 restrictions, and scheduling adjustments.

11 The EIS also provides detailed noise analyses for  
12 locations that would serve as auxiliary airfields with  
13 training aircraft. The noise contour map shown here  
14 reflects the potential noise from F-35A training  
15 aircraft on areas surrounding Biggs Army Airfield and  
16 the El Paso International Airport.

17 For these auxiliary airfields, the number of off-  
18 installation residents affected by sound levels greater  
19 than 65-decibel DNL would increase by an estimated 377  
20 to 2,032 people under the various basing scenarios.  
21 Some schools and childcare centers in the vicinity of  
22 the El Paso International Airport would be affected by  
23 elevated noise levels. However, possible noise  
24 attenuation measures, such as structural modification,  
25 could reduce these noise effects.

1 These noise contour maps up here reflect the  
2 potential noise impacts from F-35A training aircraft on  
3 areas surrounding the Roswell International Air Center  
4 under the eight aircraft basing scenarios. The first  
5 map shows Scenario H1W through H3W, which includes  
6 F-16s. The map on your right shows noise contours for  
7 Scenarios H1 through H5, which do not include the F-16s.

8 So the map on the left is with F-16s, map on the  
9 right is without F-16s. For the auxiliary airfield the  
10 number of residents affected by noise levels greater  
11 than 65-decibel DNL would increase by an estimated five  
12 to 497 people under the various basing scenarios. Some  
13 schools and childcare centers in the vicinity of the  
14 airfield would be affected by elevated noise levels.  
15 Again, noise attenuation measures could reduce these  
16 noise effects.

17 At this time, the Air Force has completed the  
18 first three steps of the NEPA process. We're now in the  
19 fourth step, providing the draft EIS for public review  
20 and comment. This phase is an essential part of the  
21 NEPA process because it allows the public to review the  
22 draft EIS and comment on the Air Force's analysis of  
23 potential environmental effects. We encourage you to  
24 provide your input here tonight or by March 14th of this  
25 year so that it can be considered for incorporation into

1 the final EIS. All comments we receive between now and  
2 March 14th will be considered in this EIS.

3 The Air Force is committed to keeping the  
4 community informed throughout the NEPA process. In  
5 addition to holding these public hearings, the Air Force  
6 has established a website to make it easy for you to  
7 find and review environmental documents. The draft EIS  
8 is posted on this website, as well as additional  
9 information, and the fact sheets are available here  
10 tonight. So all the fact sheets that are available here  
11 tonight are on the website as well.

12 You may also review a hard copy of the draft EIS  
13 by visiting one of the six public libraries listed in  
14 the NEPA handout you received tonight.

15 Comments on the draft EIS may be provided orally  
16 or in writing here tonight or by fax, e-mail, or mailing  
17 written comments to this address up here. All of this  
18 information is provided on the comment form and on the  
19 project website.

20 Now I will turn the presentation over to Colonel  
21 Gregory, who will facilitate the oral-comment session.  
22 Thank you for your time.

23 COLONEL GREGORY: All right. Thanks. We'll  
24 now move into the public-comment part of the hearing,  
25 and here's how this works. I'll use these speaker

1 comment cards, that those of you who want to speak  
2 filled out, to call folks up to the mic. If you'd like  
3 to make an oral comment and haven't yet filled out one  
4 of these cards, just raise your hand, and we'll get you  
5 a card to fill out. Allison Turner will take care of  
6 you. If you change your mind, let her know, and she'll  
7 get you a card.

8 The procedure gives three minutes to each  
9 speaker. When I call your name, please come on up to  
10 the mic, and Allison here is going to be our timekeeper.  
11 She'll start the clock when you're ready to go.

12 To help Ms. Harms, please begin by stating your  
13 name and the name of the organization, if any, that you  
14 represent. It will also help out Ms. Harms if you'd  
15 spell out your last name. We have it on these cards,  
16 but sometimes we misread what's printed on the card.  
17 Please don't provide any other personal information,  
18 like your home address or phone number. Again, your  
19 comments are recorded verbatim. They will be used to  
20 develop a transcript and permanent record of the meeting  
21 and will be published in the final EIS. Your name will  
22 be included, along with your comment, and will be in the  
23 final EIS, but, of course, we will not include your  
24 personal home address and phone number.

25 Of course, you don't have to speak for the full



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1 three minutes. To help you keep track of the time,  
2 Allison here has got some colored cards. She's going to  
3 show you when time is getting short. She'll hold up a  
4 yellow card when you've got, give or take, 30 seconds  
5 left, something like that, and a red card when your time  
6 is up. When you see her flash the red card, please just  
7 go ahead and conclude your comments at that point so I  
8 can call the next person. You don't need to yield any  
9 remaining time to someone else. I'll just move to the  
10 next speaker when you're finished. Also, it just takes  
11 too much time to set up individual electronic  
12 presentations, but those can certainly be submitted as  
13 written comments.

14 Tonight's hearing is set to end at 8:00 p.m., so  
15 we have got about an hour and a half. If everyone who  
16 signed up to speak has had a chance to do so before 8:00  
17 p.m., I'll ask if any speaker would like another three  
18 minutes to expand on what you said earlier, and if you  
19 want to do that, just let me know, and I'll put another  
20 three minutes back on the clock for you.

21 If you want to add something later to your oral  
22 comments or if you'd rather not speak here tonight, you  
23 can certainly submit written comments. There is no page  
24 limit on written comments, and the Air Force gives equal  
25 weight to oral and written comments. Both become part

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1 of the official record, and both are included in the  
2 final EIS.

3 Just a few reminders before we get started.  
4 First, please limit your comments to the draft EIS.  
5 That is the purpose of this public-comment period.  
6 Second, if you agree with the previous speaker on  
7 something, you can certainly say that, but you don't  
8 need to use up your time repeating it because it's  
9 already in the record. Finally, as I mentioned earlier,  
10 this part isn't a Q&A session. It's an opportunity for  
11 you to put on the record your views and your concerns  
12 about the proposal that you want the decision makers to  
13 consider.

14 Questions that you pose during your comments will  
15 become a part of the record and will be considered.  
16 After we're done with this formal part of the hearing,  
17 then the Air Force reps and others will continue to be  
18 available to discuss things with you back around those  
19 boards that you saw at the beginning. All right.

20 With that, I will call our first speaker off the  
21 top here, Ms. Ellen Kazor. I hope I pronounced that  
22 correctly.

3001 HO

23 MS. KAZOR: Hello. My name is Ellen Kazor,  
24 and my husband and I are property owners here in the  
25 Mayhill-Weed area. We've been here since 1999. First,

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1 I want to thank our Air Force personnel for all the  
2 dedication and service they provide. Thank you very  
3 much.

4 I had a prepared statement here, but I found out  
5 we only have three minutes, so I don't know how it's  
6 going to shake out, so let's give it a shot.

7 One of my concerns is that in the EIS document I  
8 wasn't able to really find information specifically  
9 concerning the F-35 flying in our areas. What I'm  
10 referring to in particular is Table HO 2.2-3, and on  
11 there are listed the MTRs, the military training routes,  
12 that would be used in our area. We are all located  
13 under some kind of a military training route. I did ask  
14 around in the back for some clarification, and I kind of  
15 got a mixed bag on this.

DO-43

16 The military training routes, minimum altitudes  
17 are 100 feet to 500 feet above ground level, according  
18 to this document. If you're flying at that level,  
19 you're looking at decibel levels of about 133 at 300  
20 feet and 129 at 100 feet. According to the EIS  
21 document, decibel levels at 75 decibels are unsuitable  
22 for residential use.

SO-1

23 So according to the MTR statement in the table  
24 here, the F-35 has a potential of flying in our airspace  
25 at a hundred feet above ground level and 500 feet above

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1 ground level. The draft EIS says a majority of that  
2 will be occurring above 10,000 feet; nevertheless, about  
3 15 percent of that, according to the draft EIS, will be  
4 at a hundred feet or 500 feet above ground level.

SO-1  
cont'd

5 So taking into consideration the fact that 75  
6 decibels is not suitable for residential use, we're  
7 looking at something pretty significant.

8 The other thing I didn't find in the draft EIS  
9 was anything about focused booms. There isn't any data  
10 in the draft EIS about focused booms. So if there  
11 isn't, are we and the NEPA evaluators to make the  
12 assumption that focused booms are not generated by the  
13 F-35A under any flight conditions? Where is that data  
14 either way?

NO-25

15 The other question that I have, when I was  
16 looking at the draft EIS, some of the quotes from the  
17 draft EIS state, "The F-35A is a new weapon system.  
18 Information on existing operation is unavailable," and,  
19 quote, "flight crews and maintenance personnel are still  
20 learning about the aircraft's capabilities and  
21 limitations," and, quote, "For the environmental  
22 analysis, the F-35 operations were modeled. According  
23 to the draft EIS, the model uses preliminary training  
24 documents, projected capabilities, employment profiles,  
25 and comparison with the F-16."

NP-13

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1 So this substantiates the first quote that  
2 information from the existing operation is unavailable.  
3 So if, according to the draft EIS, information is  
4 unavailable, flight crews and maintenance personnel are  
5 still learning about the F-35, and the environmental  
6 analysis is based on modeling, please explain how this  
7 draft EIS meets NEPA's requirements for detailed study  
8 of the F-35 and the potential environmental consequences  
9 of the proposed actions and its cumulative impacts.

**NP-13**  
**cont'd**

10 Thank you.

11 COLONEL GREGORY: Thank you, ma'am. And,  
12 again, if that wasn't enough time, I think we're  
13 probably going to have time for a reattack later. Just  
14 let me know if you'd like to do that.

15 Our next speaker, Mr. Tom Smith.

**3002 HO**

16 MR. SMITH: Thank you very much for the  
17 opportunity to talk with you. First off, I'm a military  
18 man myself, 13 years submarine service, teaching in a  
19 nuclear power school and operating submarines. It's a  
20 noisy environment.

21 Also, I operate the Dark Ridge Observatory, which  
22 is an astronomical observatory here in the mountains,  
23 and as a result, I deal with scientific data, and I work  
24 with that extensively.

25 So I have a couple comments. First off, since

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1 I've only got three minutes, I was going to talk about a  
2 few things such as countermeasures, but I'll leave that  
3 to another point or I'll write it down and write in.  
4 That's a concern, however.

5 The noise that we can expect in our mountains,  
6 that's a big deal to me because I was retired after  
7 operating power plants, both commercial and nuclear,  
8 both military and also commercial. I think retirement  
9 for me is a big deal, and I did that after serving my  
10 stint with the military, which is a very good thing.  
11 I'm pro-military. Do not take this away negatively. I  
12 think we are the best in the world, and we can be the  
13 best in the world, but we have to be the most honest in  
14 the world too.

**NO-38**

15 To that point, HO 18, HO 2.2-3 specifically  
16 states that in New Mexico there were 47 people who  
17 attended meetings, scoping meetings. That's all. I  
18 have a roster. 84 people showed up here in this  
19 gymnasium in 2010.

20 Noise, what does it mean? We don't really have  
21 any hard numbers from the military or in this EIS about  
22 the F-35A. We don't know what it's going to do at 100  
23 feet above ground. At 620 knots, that's pretty fast.  
24 We don't know what it's going to do.

**NO-4**

25 But here are the numbers that you might be

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1 familiar with, okay? We operate and live in 25 dB,  
2 which is based on a document in the EIS; countryside on  
3 a windless day away from traffic. That's our noise  
4 level, 25 dB. I'm talking about now about 80 dB, so you  
5 understand what that means.

6 Okay. 45 dB is the recommended upper limit for  
7 homes, motels, laboratories, private offices,  
8 courtrooms. My submarine engine room was 120 decibels.  
9 I know what that noise is like. I know what it is, and  
10 I'm glad I retired here. The F-35, what we can find, is  
11 133 decibels. 160 decibels is peak when you fire a  
12 30-30. That's what you're going to hear at your ear,  
13 160 dB. 133 decibels, the F-35 may be flying.  
14 Lightning, we're all familiar with lightning. Lightning  
15 is 120 decibels. 120 decibels is above the noise level  
16 causing pain. This is 512 times the noise level of our  
17 normal background environment. These are not big  
18 numbers. 512 times, okay? It's based on 25 dB on  
19 background and 130 dB as the top flight noise from the  
20 F-35 flying over.

21 Now, let's just put that to real terms. There  
22 you are making your precision cut in your shop with your  
23 saw, your band saw, and that thing comes over a hundred  
24 feet above your house, 620 knots, blowing your doors  
25 out, and I mean literally blowing your doors out, okay?

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NO-1

Page 32

1 I don't want to put my hand down there. I'm not  
2 the guy drilling that first nail in that horse's shoe.  
3 I'm not the farrier that's going to hear that boom.  
4 What do you think is going to happen to that hoof? I  
5 guarantee you, these animals bolt.

6 There was a very good video showing this back in  
7 1989, I believe it was, where there was an interview on  
8 TV where an overflight happened, and was not an F-35A.  
9 It was higher. A bunch of horses bantered away in a  
10 frenzy and potentially could have injured people as well  
11 as damaged themselves.

12 Thank you very much. My time is up. And I  
13 solute you guys.

14 COLONEL GREGORY: As I mentioned, I think  
15 we're going to have time for reattack, if you'd like to  
16 add to that.

17 Next speaker, Mr. Walt Coffman.

3003 HO

18 MR. COFFMAN: Walt Coffman, C-o-f-f-m-a-n.  
19 I'm a long-term resident. Well, 12 years in Weed.  
20 Three minutes isn't nearly enough time to go through the  
21 F-35, but I would like to jump on the noise bandwagon  
22 again.

23 120 dB is a threshold of pain. 130, upper limit  
24 in that pain thing, hearing loss, immediate hearing loss  
25 at 140 dB, give or take. Studies in Germany show that

EJ-9

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1 children are severely affected by noise levels over  
2 approximately 115 dB. And they take into account the  
3 rise; that is, as Tom just said, it's 30 dB right now, a  
4 plane goes over, it's 130, so we've got 100 dB rise in  
5 noise level, and that affects young children especially.

**EJ-9**  
cont'd

6 The same studies show that there's likely to be  
7 convulsions with babies when the noise levels are at  
8 this 115 dB plus. They're ultrafast rise times.

9 And let me just say that the EIS, contrary to  
10 what Mr. Martin said, is not comprehensive. They lack  
11 noise data. You saw some wonderful charts from the air  
12 bases, very detailed, and yet the MTRs, which take up  
13 more ground area -- and we're under an MTR right here --  
14 there is no data. There is one number for the MTRs.  
15 What is that number? It's in the 60 dBs. And that's  
16 an average number. It's a DNL number. They average,  
17 they filter out some noise.

**NO-24**

18 Kind of boring stuff, but if you look at what the  
19 Department of Defense says about NEPA and about this  
20 process, they say that the Air Force needs to have that  
21 average that's a valid number and that the Air Force  
22 needs to show us a peak number, and then they need to  
23 characterize the noise environment.

24 So the Air Force has failed to show us a peak  
25 number. I challenge anyone to find the Lmax number for

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**NO-24**  
cont'd

1 the MTRs we're under.

2 In other EISs, the Air Force has divulged that  
3 this airplane is incredibly noisy. There are lawsuits  
4 filed. There are people in other countries that refuse  
5 to base the aircraft. It's all on this noise issue.

6 It would be refreshing -- and I was very  
7 disappointed. It would be refreshing if this EIS  
8 actually did a good job of analysis so that we could  
9 compare our alternatives. I'd like to be able to  
10 compare Arizona alternatives and Boise alternatives with  
11 Holloman. But with the faulty information and the lack  
12 of information -- and I just highlighted one of them  
13 because I'm out of time -- you cannot make a comparison.  
14 I'm just taking on noise right now.

**NP-29**

15 There are other areas, such as flare use, that  
16 also have missing data that impact us, and everybody up  
17 here knows about the fire danger. The Air Force plans  
18 to use probably a hundred tons -- ten to a hundred tons  
19 of flares over our mountains, and they don't really  
20 analyze the impact nor compare the impact on all the  
21 alternatives.

**SA-8**

22 I'm out of time. I thank you very much. I want  
23 to thank the Air Force for being here.

24 COLONEL GREGORY: Thanks, Mr. Coffman.  
25 That's C-o-f-f-m-a-n?

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1 MR. COFFMAN: Yes, sir, that's correct.

2 COLONEL GREGORY: I wanted to make sure I  
3 didn't skip somebody. I thought I saw another Walt  
4 "Kaufmann."

5 MR. COFFMAN: I'll go again, if you want.

6 COLONEL GREGORY: Well, you can if your name  
7 is spelled K-a-u-f-m-a-n-n.

8 MS. TURNER: Somebody filled out that card  
9 for him.

10 COLONEL GREGORY: All right. Next we have  
11 Mr. Don Tracy, T-r-a-c-y.

12 MR. TRACY: I moved up here for one reason  
13 and one reason only, and that was the quality of life,  
14 and I don't think that's been addressed in the EIS. We  
15 have a lot of numbers and a lot of things on noise, but  
16 most of us that moved out into this area moved out here  
17 because it offers the quality of life that is unmatched  
18 anywhere else, and that quality of life is what matters  
19 to most of us most because that's why we're commenting.

20 I don't want to take up three minutes. I just  
21 wanted to say we moved here because of the peace, the  
22 tranquility. We left the big cities behind. What the  
23 EIS is telling us here is that we're going to encounter  
24 some kind of noise pollution. We're going to encounter  
25 some kind of possibility of animals' reaction, and

3004 HO

NO-36

NO-16

BI-5

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1 that's not why we moved out here. I moved out here  
2 because it was peaceful and quiet. It doesn't -- I have  
3 a sound-level meter. It's so quiet out here, it doesn't  
4 even register that low, and that's what I like. Thank  
5 you.

NO-16

6 COLONEL GREGORY: Thank you, sir. This is  
7 beautiful country out here. This is my first trip out  
8 here, and I'm very impressed.

9 Mr. Stephen Cook.

3005 HO

10 MR. COOK: Thank you for the opportunity to  
11 speak. I'm a long-time resident of the area. I live  
12 about three miles south of here, and I believe I live  
13 under the MTR known as IR 192/194, something like that.  
14 I have a technical background. I have a lot to  
15 say about noise, but since I only have three minutes,  
16 I'm going to limit my comments.

17 With respect to noise, I'm firmly convinced that  
18 what appears in the EIS can be skeptically characterized  
19 as garbage in equals garbage out, and I'm prepared to  
20 fully debate this. I have before, the meeting with Air  
21 Force personnel.

22 So I want to move on from noise except to say  
23 that even if you accept the Air Force numbers of DNL,  
24 for my specific location, using their studies that they  
25 cite and their numbers, which I'm skeptical of, I can

SO-1

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1 document up to an \$18,000 loss in the property value of  
2 my place. You know, roughly 9 percent loss, something  
3 like that.

SO-1  
cont'd

4 Okay. Let me move on from that. Since others  
5 alluded to flares, nobody has said a lot of detail about  
6 flares. If this was a slide show, I would put up a  
7 slide that focused on a New York Times headline from  
8 2007 that basically reported on a story on pilot error  
9 in which an F-16 flare started an 18,000-acre fire. We  
10 know that potential is there.

SA-5

11 What I was blown out by, in looking at the  
12 technical details of the EIS, for a military operations  
13 area of about 2,000 square miles, in one year under  
14 Scenario H5, 132,000 flares would be expected to be  
15 dropped. There's a number in Section 2.45 that I  
16 challenge the Air Force to fully document that basically  
17 says only one in 10,000 of these flares will fail to  
18 ignite and will be a dud. I'm very skeptical of that  
19 number. If that number isn't right, we are in deep  
20 you-know-what around here.

DO-7

21 According to my calculations, even if we accept  
22 that number, that means under Scenario H5, 13 to 14 duds  
23 end up on the ground in that area. Over the 30-year  
24 lifetime, we've got 400 of these strung out over an  
25 area. The potential for serious injury, even death, to

SA-5

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1 firefighters, to people that ride ATVs, to hikers, to  
2 children playing that stumble on one of these things.  
3 It's bad for us, folks. And that's using Air Force  
4 numbers. That means 999,000 of these flares work  
5 perfectly, and one fails. That's what they're assuming.  
6 These things have a plastic spring mechanism. I find it  
7 unbelievable that they're going with that, that they  
8 appear to be sticking with it.

SA-5  
cont'd

DO-7

9 The other area I want to briefly comment on is  
10 the so-called no-action alternative. There is really a  
11 need for another alternative in this EIS. The  
12 alternative that I have in mind recognizes that our  
13 country's economic security is not what it was 10 years  
14 ago, okay? Ten years ago, when the F-35 program was  
15 sort of approved by the Air Force higher-ups, our  
16 country was in much different economic shape than it is  
17 now.

DO-5

18 A recent article in The Atlantic about a year ago  
19 documented a \$1 trillion cost of this program over its  
20 lifetime. If you divide that number by the roughly 100  
21 million American households, all of our households, it's  
22 costing us in taxes \$10,000 a year. There's got to be a  
23 different way to do this.

24 We've got a \$15 trillion, roughly, national debt.  
25 A trillion dollars added from this one program. Anyway,

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1 the CBO proposal that came out in July last year, in  
 2 response to critics like John McCain, suggested a  
 3 scale-back program of having no F-35s and beefing up the  
 4 F-16s, saving \$260 billion. That's over the life of the  
 5 program. That's what I'd like to see the Air Force  
 6 pursue in another alternative. Thank you.

DO-5  
cont'd

7 COLONEL GREGORY: Ms. Sandra Hunt of Spirit  
 8 Ranch.

3006 HO

9 MS. HUNT: How many decibels do you think  
 10 Steve just did? That's got to have been 70, at least.

11 MR. COOK: Sorry.

12 MS. HUNT: I want to start with a question,  
 13 because you alluded to that our comments would be  
 14 "considered." Are they going to be addressed or  
 15 considered? Because I put in a lot of comments during  
 16 the scoping session that were not addressed. They might  
 17 have been considered, but they weren't answered. So are  
 18 these going to be considered or answered?

NP-2  
NP-3

19 COLONEL GREGORY: Well, considered in the  
 20 sense that they would become part of the final EIS and  
 21 address your concerns.

22 MS. HUNT: Okay. So it will be addressed?

23 COLONEL GREGORY: Should be.

24 MS. HUNT: Could be?

25 COLONEL GREGORY: Should be.

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1 MS. HUNT: Should be.

2 COLONEL GREGORY: Big difference.

3 MS. HUNT: Okay. That's going to be in the  
 4 comments. Okay. So my concern -- I've got a lot of  
 5 concerns, but one of my concerns that wasn't addressed  
 6 in the EIS is the impact on the businesses that exist up  
 7 here in the mountains. We have a number of businesses  
 8 that are based on retreats, on youth camps, on -- you  
 9 know, just in addition to the -- we've got a lot of  
 10 astronomers' locations, you know, observatories up here.  
 11 And so I didn't see anything in the EIS that addressed  
 12 an impact on these businesses.

SO-7

13 We have over 10,000 youth in the mountains here  
 14 during the summer. You know, how are they going to  
 15 address the youth when they're doing 133 decibels? I  
 16 mean, you know, so I would like to see something in the  
 17 EIS that addresses the impact on our businesses here in  
 18 the mountains. Thank you.

EJ-6

SO-7

19 COLONEL GREGORY: Mr. Rob Shepler.

3007 HO

20 MR. SHEPLER: I'm Rob Shepler. I live in  
 21 Mayhill. I've been here for about three years. My  
 22 father fought in World War II. My ex-father-in-law  
 23 trained at Holloman. My son went through a youth  
 24 program. I'm retired from teaching. I support the  
 25 military. The military has touched probably everybody

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1 in this room. I'm a flight buff. Planes are cool.

2 My wife is very concerned about being on her  
3 horse during the time the booms happen. And it has  
4 occurred. I spoke to a gentleman in the room this  
5 evening that was on a horse, had a plane fly over him,  
6 and because of the turbulence from the wings, they both  
7 went tumbling down the hill. It is incredibly dangerous  
8 in a beautiful, beautiful area.

BI-1

9 If you open up an aeronautical chart, we have --  
10 I can't even guess -- millions of acres of MOA  
11 throughout the Southwest.

12 Colonel, do you have a guess for how many  
13 millions of acres of MOA we have?

14 COLONEL MacFARLAND: Quite a few.

15 MR. SHEPLER: Quite a few? I wonder, you  
16 know, as a private citizen -- those are restricted to me  
17 -- why training has to occur over my house. I  
18 understand the need to transit from MOA to MOA, but I  
19 don't understand the need to do it supersonically.  
20 Thank you.

AM-11

21 COLONEL GREGORY: Mr. Jeff Duncan.

3008 HO

22 MR. DUNCAN: That's Duncan, D-u-n-c-a-n.  
23 Three minutes doesn't do justice for any of us, so I'm  
24 going to have to adapt here, as everybody else has. I  
25 mean this with no disrespect to anybody in this room

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1 from the Air Force, but when I read the EIS, the Air  
2 Force had two years to produce it, and we had about two  
3 weeks to read it, and in that two weeks, I had one  
4 recurring experience. I find myself stopping, closing  
5 the manual, looking at the front cover to make sure that  
6 the title wasn't "Harry Potter and the Air Force Magical  
7 Kingdom of Deception."

NP-12

8 I thought this was supposed to be something based  
9 upon fact, that you could then use those facts to come  
10 to certain conclusions. I didn't get that at all. I  
11 got generalities, averages.

12 What does an average mean, 69 decibels, if 144  
13 F-35s get stationed here, and all of them fly over your  
14 house at 500 miles per hour at 500 feet at 129 decibels?  
15 That average doesn't mean a damn thing. Why should we  
16 be talking about that? This is about specific things  
17 that are going to impact our lives in very negative  
18 ways.

NO-24

19 The economic impact was minimized. In fact, I  
20 think it was stated, they expect none. So here we are,  
21 as other people already spoke, a retreat area, quiet.  
22 Bringing in tourists is a big part of the income we all  
23 experience, and we're going to have planes flying over  
24 with handicapped kids, young children and adults on  
25 horseback, doing other types of things, and out of

SO-7

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1 nowhere comes this plane 500 feet above your head.  
 2 What's your horse going to do, or what's your kid going  
 3 to do? Are you going to be able to hear anything when  
 4 it's done? I don't think so. The Air Force is telling  
 5 us that there's going to be no economic impact because  
 6 of that? I have a word that I'd choose to use right now  
 7 if I didn't want to be polite, and it has to do with  
 8 horse apples. That doesn't carry it, guys.

SO-7  
cont'd

9 There's going to be a significant economic impact  
 10 on us with this. Property values, my wife and I retired  
 11 and just invested most of what we had saved into our  
 12 property here to build a new house. If this happens --  
 13 and we're under one of those MTRs -- 500 feet, 129  
 14 decibels, planes constantly coming over our house, who  
 15 in their right mind is going to buy our property? I'm  
 16 not talking about for any price. I'm talking about not  
 17 buying the property at all. Our life savings are gone.  
 18 That's not right. That's the Air Force -- if this goes  
 19 the way it's planned with Holloman being used, that's  
 20 the Air Force using weapons of war, multimillion-dollar  
 21 weapons of war, in acts of aggression against us that  
 22 will hurt us physically, that will hurt us economically  
 23 in just about every way you can consider. This should  
 24 not happen. We cannot afford to let this happen. We  
 25 need to do everything within our power to see that the

SO-1

GE-4

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GE-4  
cont'd

1 F-35s do not end up here. Thank you.  
 2 COLONEL GREGORY: Well, I've called all the  
 3 speaker cards that I have. Is there anyone who has not  
 4 had a chance to speak yet who has decided they want to?  
 5 Let me give you a chance first. Anyone? Just raise  
 6 your hand, and we'll get you up here.

7 All right. As promised, is there anyone who has  
 8 already spoken who would like to put another three  
 9 minutes back on the clock, as they say in football? All  
 10 right. Let's see. Let me just move left to right. How  
 11 about that? I saw three hands. We'll get you all an  
 12 additional three.

13 MS. KAZOR: Just very quickly, a couple of  
 14 points that I was gleaned through my papers here. What  
 15 I would -- oh, my name is Helen Kazor, K-a-z-o-r. What  
 16 the noise contour map that was presented to the audience  
 17 earlier this evening failed to include were our  
 18 mountains. You have the Holloman Air Force Base, and  
 19 you have White Sands, but there's nothing, nothing about  
 20 our area on the noise contour map.

3001 HO

NO-38

21 So what I would like to see in the EIS and on  
 22 this contour map is something a little bit more than  
 23 decibel averages. I want to see a little bit more and a  
 24 little more quantitative metrics there, if possible.

NO-24

25 The other thing that I think -- and this goes

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1 along with something Sandra was saying -- I don't think  
2 you folks realize that there are over 12,000 full-time  
3 residents in Weed, Sacramento, Mayhill, Pinon, Timberon,  
4 Pinon, Cloudcroft, Ruidoso alone. That represents  
5 approximately 40 percent of the population of  
6 Alamogordo. You are impacting a lot of people. We have  
7 a lot of businesses in these mountains. Millions of  
8 dollars are spent in the cattle business in these areas.  
9 We have a world-class horse-race track. There are  
10 casinos that generate significant revenue. As Sandra  
11 and others mentioned, we have camps and B&Bs that draw  
12 thousands of people to our area. We have astronomers  
13 with technically sensitive equipment doing national and  
14 international research and providing educational  
15 opportunities for children. We have artists that are  
16 well known. We have craftsmen and musicians. Ruidoso  
17 has a hospital. We are a viable community.

NO-11

18 The F-35, if flying over our areas, is going to  
19 produce a socioeconomic impact. During the scoping  
20 meeting, a number of our residents did request that an  
21 economic evaluation be done for this document. And  
22 going back to what Sandra said, perhaps it was  
23 considered, but it was not done.

NP-3

24 So I would like to see this next document as a  
25 true economic analysis of our area. I'm not talking

SO-19

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1 about Alamogordo. I'm not talking about Holloman Air  
2 Force Base. You need to address the 12,0000 full-time  
3 residents and our life savings that are put into these  
4 mountains.

SO-19  
cont'd

5 COLONEL GREGORY: Sir.

3003 HO

6 MR. COFFMAN: Walt Coffman. I spoke a  
7 little about noise, and I want to reiterate that the  
8 NEPA process in the EIS is about alternatives, and we  
9 need enough information to compare alternatives. And so  
10 if the data, for example, for peak noise that I spoke  
11 about is not available for not just here but for the  
12 other locations, you cannot do a proper NEPA analysis of  
13 that. And so to that extent, this EIS is flawed. It's  
14 fatally flawed unless those numbers are made available.

NP-29

NP-13

15 Let me jump to another noise area because I was  
16 just talking about the noise under the military training  
17 routes that most of us experience frequently here. But  
18 I'd like to jump to the supersonic areas and talk about  
19 those just briefly.

20 The EIS would have you believe that this F-35  
21 produces a sonic overpressure of about five pounds per  
22 square foot, and if you read that chart in the EIS, you  
23 think, hey, five pounds, that's less than many, that's  
24 insignificant. If you'll look at the damage chart in  
25 that same EIS, it will show there's no potential for

NO-31

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1 damage.

2 In the very fine print, you'll see a statement  
3 that says, "Oh, by the way, this chart only applies if  
4 the aircraft is flying in absolutely straight and level,  
5 no turns and no acceleration, no movement." So just  
6 picture a training mission where the pilot doesn't touch  
7 the throttle and doesn't turn and so on. So it's silly.

8 In fact, the F-35 will maneuver. It will  
9 accelerate. If you read the fine print, it says, "Hey,  
10 guess what? When you accelerate, the overpressure is  
11 multiplied by two or five," or if you believe NASA,  
12 their recent study, 10.

13 So let's just do that math real quick. If you're  
14 five pounds overpressure going straight and level, and  
15 you accelerate up through the sound barrier, and the  
16 overpressure is times 10, well, that will make for 50  
17 pounds per square foot on the ground.

18 If you look at that chart, the same chart I just  
19 talked about for damage, guess what the top number is?  
20 Anybody know? It only goes to 10, and it doesn't go  
21 over 10, okay? So what it says is there will be damage.

22 Now, I have to say that a focused boom --  
23 actually what this is called -- only affects a very  
24 small area. It doesn't impact a huge area. But if your  
25 house or your property is under that little area, what

NO-31  
cont'd

NO-25

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1 do you think the ramifications are of that  
2 50-pound-per-square-foot boom? It's something to think  
3 about. So the EIS doesn't discuss that. They go into  
4 no detail about it. They don't tell us how many.

5 The Air Force has plenty of information that  
6 shows the sonic boom tracks. They can, in fact, know  
7 where their planes are going to fly. They have data  
8 showing the patterns through the airspace used. They  
9 could tell us where these booms are going to land, but  
10 they have chosen not to.

11 Furthermore, they don't show us those booms in  
12 the other alternatives, so we can't look to see, for  
13 example, if Boise has less of a problem with these  
14 focused booms than Holloman.

15 Again, part of the EIS is to be able to compare  
16 alternatives. If we don't have the data, then we can't  
17 do that.

18 I want to reiterate what Jeff said. I was  
19 embarrassed to read this document. It is fluff. There  
20 are very few hard numbers. It's a cut-and-paste job  
21 from several other EISs. I'm especially offended that a  
22 specifically noisy, notably noisy aircraft, has  
23 virtually no noise information, no peak, no Lmax  
24 numbers, all averages. Thank you.

25 COLONEL GREGORY: Let me come back to you

NO-25  
cont'd

NP-29

NO-24

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1 because I have someone signed up who hasn't spoken, and  
2 then we'll come back to the reattack set.

3 Mr. Riley is with Congressman Pearce's office.

4 MR. RILEY: Good evening. Thank you for  
5 inviting me. I'm glad that we were able to be a part of  
6 this. Basically, the only thing I wanted to do was go  
7 ahead and encourage everybody to submit their comments  
8 for the official record, but as an office of  
9 congressional representation, we don't have a place  
10 right now as far as we're not sure what the public is  
11 concerned most about and that they're wanting. That's  
12 why we've attended these meetings. I'll be at one  
13 tomorrow, and then we'll have someone in Alamogordo.

14 I would like to encourage you to keep us in the  
15 loop on everything that you submit so that we can do the  
16 best possible job to represent your ideals additionally.  
17 So that's just all I want to say. Please just include  
18 us. Thank you.

19 COLONEL GREGORY: Mr. Smith.

20 MR. SMITH: I'm sorry, I was your second  
21 speaker. That's S-m-i-t-h.

22 All right. My comments, I need to add a little  
23 bit here too. I'm the guy with the observatory. Flares  
24 are discussed in the EIS in very minimal fashion. In  
25 fact, the flares they discuss are not flares that will

3009 HO

GE-13

3002 HO

SA-8

1 actually fly. They're flares that are flown off F-16s.

2 These flares, however, do contain magnesium in  
3 significant quantities, and magnesium is a metal. When  
4 metal burns, it's different than when the forest burns.

5 When it hits the ground, it's going to be explosive,  
6 it's going to be extremely high temperature. You can't  
7 put it out with water unless you flood it completely.  
8 You can't do that in the mountains. You can't put it  
9 out with CO2 to remove the oxygen. It produces its own  
10 upon burning. Enough about flares.

11 Countermeasures, what about electronic  
12 countermeasures? This plane, from what I've read, has  
13 the ability to electronically simulate itself in another  
14 location or more than one plane. It can do that.  
15 That's the beauty of this thing. Of course, it's  
16 probably extremely top secret how it's done. I'm an  
17 amateur radio operator also. I do know a little bit  
18 about radiofrequency. The way you can do that is you  
19 can phase multiple frequencies and have them combine in  
20 a particular location to stimulate an energy pack.

21 Now, the question is, what frequencies? What  
22 intensities are they going to use to stimulate these? A  
23 lot of us up in the mountains rely on the internet  
24 through wifi. What about your home internets? What  
25 about your business inside your house? Is it going to

SA-8  
cont'd

SA-5

DO-13

Page 51

1 be affected by this focused radiofrequency? What  
2 frequency am I talking about? That's not even  
3 addressed, first off.

4 We live in a rural community. We don't have the  
5 advantages of cable modem. We don't have hard wire in a  
6 lot of cases. We have to rely on what we've got. There  
7 are not a lot of us compared to the other voting  
8 populations down in Alamogordo, that's true, but we're  
9 significant. Don't forget us, okay?

10 I encourage everybody, as was stated before, to  
11 write your comments. In the back of the room we've got  
12 some question flyers with some bullet points and  
13 questions that might raise a little bit of interest in  
14 you. I suggest you pick one up on your way out. Please  
15 do document in writing what you want to discuss, what  
16 you want to say.

17 I'll, again, say the data in here is supposition,  
18 at its best. There are facts about other things besides  
19 the F-35A. There are facts -- real nice facts about the  
20 16 and 22, other planes. There is no hard evidence on  
21 this plane and how it's going to operate. That's all I  
22 want to say at this time. Thank you.

23 COLONEL GREGORY: We have a new speaker,  
24 Mr. Conner.

25 MR. CONNER: I wasn't going to say anything,

DO-13  
cont'd

NP-13

3010 HO

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1 but I have a couple of questions and one comment. I was  
2 reading one of your force release numbers, 1201-08,  
3 January of '12. It says, "The purpose of this project  
4 is to train pilots and personnel to safely and  
5 effectively operate the F-35A aircraft." Well, I'm not  
6 too sure this is a good place to practice safety. Just  
7 food for thought.

8 You know, I think when these corridors were  
9 originally developed, there were a lot less people  
10 living in the mountains. So that should be taken into  
11 consideration. And that's from your own press release I  
12 was just reading from.

13 There is no doubt, fire and safety is our concern  
14 here. Somebody talked about flares. That was one of  
15 the things. If we're talking about training people on  
16 safety, I'm not sure this is a smart thing to do in the  
17 area that we have, as densely populated as it is now.  
18 I know when I was a young man here, there wasn't anybody  
19 over here, but there's people here everywhere now. Food  
20 for thought.

21 The EIS itself, I haven't really looked at it,  
22 but I've heard some of these folks talk about it, Tom  
23 and some of these others, but there's no correlation --  
24 as far as the studies being done, you can't correlate it  
25 to this mountain range. Your decibel levels are going

SA-1

NO-38

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1 to be higher too because of echoes in the canyon, and  
2 those studies that were done weren't done, you know, in  
3 the mountains. It doesn't say that, that I'm aware of.  
4 So that's something you want to consider.

NO-38  
cont'd

5 Flight frequency as compared to the F-22, I'd  
6 like to know what the difference is. The frequency in  
7 the flight that is going to take place, I don't know if  
8 it says that in the EIS or not, but it may. If it's  
9 increased, it's going to be a larger impact, not only  
10 for decibel levels but a lot of levels.

DO-45

11 There's no doubt in my mind that whatever comes  
12 out of this, we don't need to be flying around here in  
13 the middle of the night. You know, we're trying to  
14 sleep here. I don't think you're going to be flying  
15 over Alamogordo in the middle of the night. I mean, the  
16 public down there just isn't going to permit it, and  
17 there's no difference up here in the real sense, in the  
18 real world.

NO-3

19 From a livestock standpoint, I think we're all  
20 interested in that, especially us that have stock. But  
21 the EIS talks about in 1983 there's a study on dairy  
22 cattle, which don't even compare to ranch cattle, but  
23 two in ten aborted, okay? Well, if you do that based  
24 upon a hundred head, we'll say, about everybody around  
25 here has got a hundred dead cows. You're talking about

SO-17

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1 based on current market value of a loss of \$11,000 a  
2 year, okay? That's something to consider.

SO-17  
cont'd

3 In 1994, it said that the studies indicate that  
4 three out of five aborted. That's pretty significant.  
5 Based upon a hundred head, again, that's a \$66,000 loss  
6 of profit, okay? That's basically all I have to offer.  
7 Thank you.

8 COLONEL GREGORY: Mr. Tom Ward.

3011 HO

9 MR. WARD: My name is Tom Ward. I've been  
10 up here for about 20 years. Last night, I had the  
11 privilege of talking to the mayor of Ruidoso Downs. As  
12 most of you know, that's where our big racetrack is. I  
13 guess it's the basis of the economy there. Some of you  
14 should be aware that I think they passed a 50-cents-per-  
15 household tax just to help support it.

SO-18

16 And we were discussing, so what are the effects  
17 of, you're trying to get the horses in the gate, and  
18 over comes a plane? You're in the middle of the race,  
19 and over comes a plane. Game's over. That's their  
20 whole -- that's their whole economy. So that's all I  
21 have. Thank you.

22 COLONEL GREGORY: I think you're next. I  
23 don't have any new speakers. Okay. Three minutes on  
24 the clock for Mr. Cook.

25 MR. COOK: Thank you. I want to just

3005 HO

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1 briefly add to my earlier comments. With respect to  
2 noise and why I see the EIS as garbage in equals garbage  
3 out, first of all, with respect to sonic boom  
4 measurement by the Air Force EIS's own admission,  
5 Appendix D, page 52, their last sonic boom measurements  
6 that they relied on were made in 1994, many, many years  
7 before the F-35 was even on the drawing board.

8 When you make a computer model, generally what  
9 you try to do is physically model with some equations,  
10 and then you fit that to real data based on, you know,  
11 outputs you have and inputs and all of that, and real  
12 data ideally ought to be closely linked to what you're  
13 modeling.

14 Here, for the most part, certainly in the  
15 supersonic boom, we don't have the real data for the  
16 F-35. In the subsonic realm, there's almost nothing in  
17 this EIS that suggests where to look for that. And,  
18 incidentally, I've documented on my own written response  
19 to the EIS's numerous errors and places where I can't  
20 track down references. I'm running into some barrier  
21 that the Air Force has erected. These are in-house  
22 publications or whatever. I can't find it.

23 There's one place where noise mitigation, which  
24 was a question raised a couple of years ago in the  
25 scoping sessions, is referred to as to be found in

NO-25

NP-31

NO-20

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1 Section 5.0 in Chapter 4 where the base alternatives are  
2 gone over. In looking most typically in Section 4.3,  
3 there is no Section 5.0. I had very much trouble  
4 finding stuff on noise mitigation measures.

NO-20  
cont'd

5 Anyway, in the subsonic realm for F-35 noise  
6 measurements, I did find some stuff in Eglin Air Force  
7 Base's recent EIS, in Appendix E of that document, that  
8 admits that in the subsonic realm, the only two things  
9 the Air Force is really going on are measurement made at  
10 Lockheed, the manufacturer, in 2002 -- I don't know what  
11 exactly they had; maybe the engine or whatever -- and  
12 some more recent ones in 2007 by the Air Force. But  
13 admittedly, those were very limited and not relevant to  
14 these wild -- I mean, they don't justify making the wild  
15 extrapolations of the modeling that I'm pretty sure are  
16 there.

NO-49

17 With respect to the second area I commented on,  
18 at more length, flares, Tom Smith said some stuff on  
19 flares, but magnesium burns at over 2,000 degrees  
20 Fahrenheit. It's pretty darn scary stuff. I once did a  
21 chemistry demonstration in which I got so used to doing  
22 it that I failed to put my bucket of sand down to catch  
23 this burning big chunk of magnesium, and I burned a hole  
24 in a concrete floor -- it was kind of embarrassing -- at  
25 this university where I worked.

SA-4

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1           There is a need for this alternative that  
2     recognizes our decreased economic security, which  
3     increasingly people recognize is every bit as important  
4     as our national security that the Defense Department  
5     provides. In the last few months, apparently, there was  
6     a panel of five Pentagon experts that really looked  
7     critically at the F-35 program, and they found 13  
8     different design flaws that will add billions of dollars  
9     to that over \$1 trillion cost that I spoke of.

10           One of those most ominously -- or maybe not "one  
11     of those," but the rumors are that there are concerns  
12     about the observability of the F-35. In other words,  
13     one of the big reasons to have the F-35 is its radar  
14     footprint is very minimal, and apparently that's coming  
15     into question.

16           So my alternative wants the Air Force to consider  
17     this push by the Congressional Budget Office, and it  
18     does away with the F-35, it enhances the F-16s, maybe  
19     the F-18s or the A-18s, which continue to do some of  
20     what the F-35 could do at a much, much lower cost, which  
21     would save big bucks and wouldn't put us out on the rim  
22     with these scary uncertainties about the F-35. Thank  
23     you.

24           COLONEL GREGORY: Jennifer Fountain -- new  
25     speaker, come on up -- of Spirit Ranch.

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DO-5

1           MS. FOUNTAIN: I wasn't going to talk, and  
2     then my mom kept poking me. Something that kept kind of  
3     sticking out to me, we moved here -- my husband and I  
4     moved here about three or four years ago from New York  
5     City, and the decibel level is a little higher there  
6     than it is here. One of the first things we noticed was  
7     the quiet and what it does to our nervous systems,  
8     basically.

9           I want the Air Force to know, when considering  
10     these questions, that the people out here, we live a  
11     very different life out here than people live in the  
12     city, and a lot of people come out here to share in that  
13     lifestyle with us, and a lot of that lifestyle is based  
14     on being outdoors.

15           So we not only have got kids who are living out  
16     here, we've got thousands of kids who come here in the  
17     summer for that experience of being outdoors that you  
18     don't get much anymore unless you're privileged enough  
19     to be able to get out here.

20           Something that this EIS kept saying was that  
21     "Noise attenuation measures could be applied to impacted  
22     schools and childcare centers to address the potential  
23     adverse noise impacts." Those noise attenuation  
24     measures, I'm assuming, are bulking up the insulation of  
25     buildings to protect the kids from potential negative

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NO-18

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1 effects from the booms. We don't stay inside a lot out  
 2 here unless it's real snowy and cold, and when you get  
 3 kids out here in the summer, the whole point is to get  
 4 them outdoors. Our lives are spent a lot outdoors here,  
 5 so the noise attenuation measures don't mean dip out  
 6 here.

NO-18  
cont'd

7 That's really all I wanted to say. And I really  
 8 enjoyed going to summer camp when I was a kid. I can't  
 9 imagine kids being out here and dealing with sonic booms  
 10 and possibly having to stay indoors more because they  
 11 don't want to lose their hearing. So that was what  
 12 struck me. Thank you.

EJ-2

13 COLONEL GREGORY: Any other new speakers?  
 14 Anyone? Other reattack?

3003 HO

15 MR. COFFMAN: One more.

16 COLONEL GREGORY: All right. You've got  
 17 time.

18 MR. COFFMAN: I actually have about five  
 19 hours of stuff. I'll try to summarize this. I'm going  
 20 to pick one of the other topics, and I'm going to talk  
 21 about the JAG Corps and the claims process. Throughout  
 22 the EIS, you'll see references to claims. It sort of  
 23 goes on. I'll paraphrase it: "Gee, if we fly over and  
 24 blow your windows out or we kill your cows or whatever,  
 25 all you have to do is call, and a friendly Air Force

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1 person will take care of it for you."

2 And, indeed, I have to say I've dealt with  
 3 Holloman before. I don't see her here, but they are  
 4 very friendly and generally reasonably knowledgeable.  
 5 But, unfortunately, statistics show that your success  
 6 rate in that claims process is very low, and, in fact,  
 7 unless you have a lot of money, you're not going to be  
 8 very -- your chances of being successful are practically  
 9 zero.

10 The numbers are available. The JAG Corps keeps  
 11 this pretty secret. I haven't seen anything published  
 12 recently, but in the past, the numbers are -- anybody  
 13 care to guess? Anybody? Okay. 6-1/2 percent for some  
 14 kinds of claims. I've seen it as high as 25 percent.  
 15 The process goes, you turn in a claims form, which is  
 16 kind of complicated, especially if you're brain damaged,  
 17 like I am. And then you wait because the Air Force has  
 18 a large time frame to hold that and examine it. So you  
 19 might go -- I think it's 60 days. It's some lengthy  
 20 time. At that point, they'll probably say, "Sorry."

21 And then you have an opportunity to go back and  
 22 say, "Well, gee, you know, wait a minute. I've got all  
 23 these pictures of dead chickens."

24 The Air Force has another big time frame, and at  
 25 the end of that process, if you're only one of the

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1 unlucky 75 to 95 percent, the Air Force will say, "Gee,  
2 we're sorry. We're not going to honor that because it's  
3 not right, and instead, going to federal court, you can  
4 sue us there." Of course, federal court is pretty  
5 pricey. I can't afford it.

6 Why do I bring this up in the EIS? Because the  
7 whole idea of the EIS is to compare alternatives. So we  
8 need to look and see, what are the costs in Boise for  
9 claims? What are likely costs? What are the  
10 ramifications of the claim process? It's been made as  
11 part of this EIS. In the EIS you're led to believe it  
12 is part of the process. Show us the numbers between the  
13 alternatives so we have some way of knowing what the  
14 impact is from this.

DO-18

15 I have one minute. Schools and children are  
16 affected by noise. The F-35 has an SEL, a noise level,  
17 of about 120 dB at a thousand feet. It has perhaps 130  
18 dB at 500 feet, something like that. There are no  
19 numbers. The Air Force gives us no numbers.

NO-24

20 We have home-schooled children in this area.  
21 They have their windows open. They don't have air-  
22 conditioning. They don't have mitigation for the noise.  
23 Nowhere in the EIS are the needs for this rural area  
24 outlined or compared to other places, other EISs. I  
25 just bring up the rural school system as being one of

EJ-8

1 those. They go into a lot of detail for the main  
2 schools, and if you read it, it's shocking, actually,  
3 what is going to happen to those schools. But just  
4 picture a home-school situation and what that family is  
5 going to do. Thank you.

EJ-8  
cont'd

6 COLONEL GREGORY: Is there anyone who hasn't  
7 spoken yet who's changed their mind? We'd like to make  
8 sure everybody gets a chance to speak that wants to  
9 before I go back to the reattacks. Okay. Reattacks, I  
10 saw a hand, sir. Come on up.

11 MR. TRACY: I'll tell you, I think the Air  
12 Force came out and thought there were some country hicks  
13 out here, but that's not what I've been hearing tonight,  
14 and I consider myself a country hick.

3004 HO

15 I was interested in one of the pages in the EIS  
16 that talked about the number of sonic booms, and it was  
17 somewhere in the -- I think for 24 planes, it was .5 or  
18 .7 or something. It was real low. It was less than one  
19 a day, the number of sonic booms per day. And then I  
20 read in another column for 48 and for -- and up to 120  
21 planes, and it's still .5 a day. I'm going, "Hmm."

DO-48

22 "Well, I guess, Johnny, you don't get to fly  
23 today. You know, we've got 120 planes and 120 pilots  
24 out here, but we only allow, you know, a half a sonic  
25 boom a day." So I'm trying to figure out how that logic

Page 63

1 works.

2 COLONEL GREGORY: Anybody else who hasn't  
3 spoken yet before I go back to anyone? Okay. If you  
4 change your mind and haven't spoken yet, just bring a  
5 card up to the table, and I'll get you up here.

6 MR. COOK: Reading the 1300-plus pages of  
7 the EIS, the executive summary of the appendices, blah,  
8 blah, blah, there were a few moments of levity. One of  
9 them was provided when in the executive summary I  
10 encountered a statement -- this was in the print. It  
11 actually wasn't the executive summary. It's a preface  
12 where you expect an overview of the whole process and  
13 all that.

14 There was a very reassuring sentence that said,  
15 "Readers who wish to quickly review the document and  
16 compare the alternative locations will benefit from  
17 Table 2-12, the summary comparison table found at the  
18 end of Chapter 2."

19 So I immediately went there and expected to find  
20 a nice, one-page table. Table 2-12, the one that you  
21 can use to quickly review, is 36 pages long. Each page  
22 contains some of the smallest font sizes and characters,  
23 really small, crammed in. I mean, just an amazing thing  
24 that they're asking you, you know, to get this quick  
25 review.

DO-48  
cont'd

3005 HO

DO-49

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1 The other thing I wanted to say was, one of the  
2 speakers -- it may have been Mr. Martin -- had a slide  
3 that used the phrase "possible increased subsonic  
4 noise." I think several of us have shot down, you know,  
5 that belief. Whether it's, you know, the need for peak  
6 measures of noise, clearly, the DNL, the day-night  
7 averages, are pretty lame. The Air Force apparently  
8 likes to link that with the percentage of people that  
9 are annoyed, actually, highly annoyed.

NO-24

10 There is one figure that I really like that I  
11 could use to show that 20 percent of the people around  
12 here, you know, would be highly annoyed, you know, by  
13 one of the scenarios, and the figure undoubtedly omits  
14 the fact that here in the mountains we're used to, you  
15 know, very minimal ambient noise and peaceful  
16 tranquility.

NO-77

17 Anyway, sadly, one of the regions in Otero County  
18 that the Air Force sees as suffering the greatest noise  
19 impact -- they assign a DNL under Scenario H5 to this  
20 region, the highest subsonic noise level in the whole  
21 thing -- sadly, that's in a proposed wilderness national  
22 monument area known as Otero Mesa south of here. Also,  
23 I think Timberon can be expected to get some of these  
24 really high noise levels. Anyway, that's all.

LU-4

25 COLONEL GREGORY: Any new speakers? All

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1 right. We still have time, so I'm not going to close  
2 it. Mr. Smith.

3002 HO

3 MR. SMITH: I guess one of the first things  
4 I wanted to talk about is the fact that when these  
5 planes fly -- and, you know, I'm not a pilot, but I know  
6 about how it works. I know flights are usually not done  
7 alone. They're done in groups, or at least two people,  
8 and typically a training flight has probably the -- I  
9 understand the student is up front, and the pilot, a  
10 trainer, is behind.

11 When you're overflown at 500 feet, 620 knots, 130  
12 decibels, you don't get it once. You don't get a quick  
13 boom. You get a boom and a boom, and I'm not talking  
14 about sonic booms. I'm talking about rapid increase in  
15 decibel levels from your ambient to 130 sustained for  
16 more than a second, and that is some serious, serious  
17 stuff. That can cause instantaneous ear rupture and  
18 damage in hearing, and you're not going to get it back,  
19 I'm sorry, folks.

NO-39

20 Okay. As I said, the ramp-ups are much more  
21 harmful on your body than ramp-downs in noise. That's  
22 proven and documented in many places. That needs to be  
23 looked at very, very closely because the effects are  
24 significant of going up and down.

NO-79

25 Okay. Do you know that there's a special

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Page 66

1 headgear, noise-attenuating headgear, that the pilots  
2 have to use to fly the F-35, as well as the ground crew?  
3 There's special stuff they make for this purpose because  
4 of the noise associated with the pilots and the ground  
5 crew. I think I might have to get a pair of that if I  
6 have to leave my house, because you never know, and I'm  
7 going to be almost ground crew for the plane flying over  
8 my house. I'm in the confines of two of these MTRs.  
9 Both of them -- by the way, the MTR lines are the  
10 centerline. They can spread out between -- depends upon  
11 the number. They can spread out between four and 20  
12 miles outside of centerline flight location. And that  
13 also is listed in the EIS.

14 Many of these MTRs -- in fact, one in particular  
15 that flies over my house also has a very interesting  
16 wavelength. Now, I'm not a pilot, like I said, but I  
17 know people, and I know that pilots tend to use visual  
18 observations, under VFR rules, to make their turns, to  
19 follow the next flight path. One of them happens to go  
20 over the Bluewater -- the Bluewater Lookout, which  
21 happens to be in the national historic records for  
22 historic buildings or facilities. That requires very  
23 significant additional impact studies to be done, and I  
24 did not see that anywhere in that document.

CU-11

25 Additionally, down below Timberon, you've got

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Page 67

1 some archeological sites, again, listed in the  
 2 historical record, and there is nothing documenting any  
 3 specific studies that were done there. Those are frail.  
 4 Those are very, very delicate things. As Walt pointed  
 5 out, if you get these focused booms or any kind of boom  
 6 over these areas where you find these very frail  
 7 structures, they're going to be damaged significantly  
 8 forever, folks, forever.

CU-11  
cont'd

9 Again, this is our mountains. This is our home.  
 10 This is my retirement place. I want quiet.

11 COLONEL GREGORY: Has anyone changed their  
 12 mind and want to speak? I don't see anybody new, so,  
 13 ma'am, come on back.

14 Again, if you change your mind and want to speak  
 15 and haven't had a chance to do so yet, just bring me a  
 16 card up here. We still have about 20 minutes left.  
 17 Another three for you on the clock.

3006 HO

18 MS. HUNT: We're all here over the impact of  
 19 the F-35 on our hearing. The last career that I had was  
 20 in measuring occupational health hearing and pulmonary  
 21 function tests, things like that.

22 So my big concern is, I've seen how people lose  
 23 their hearing, and my question is: If the F-35 -- since  
 24 we have had so little information about it, if the Air  
 25 Force does bring in this F-35, are you going to be

NO-68

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1 willing to do the hearing examinations for people and be  
 2 responsible for loss of hearing as a result of that?  
 3 Because you can measure hearing, and you can measure  
 4 hearing a year later.

NO-68  
cont'd

5 So I would say this: If the Air Force won't do  
 6 it, I'll do it, and we'll do free hearing tests and do  
 7 baseline levels, and we'll do hearing tests in the  
 8 mountains, and we're going to have documented evidence  
 9 that perhaps the Air Force needs to provide a lot of  
 10 hearing aids. So thanks.

11 COLONEL GREGORY: Any new speakers?

3001 HO

12 MS. KAZOR: Just quickly, a follow-up with  
 13 what Sandra was talking about, I was able to -- very,  
 14 very quickly -- and forgive me. I don't have it right  
 15 here, but in the appendices they talk about the fact  
 16 that the Department of Defense has recognized that the  
 17 F-35 is a new machine, a new animal, producing new types  
 18 of noises and decibels, volumes, or whatever else you  
 19 want to call it. In the appendices -- forgive me, I  
 20 can't do the numbers, but the Department of Defense is  
 21 requiring some type of hearing analysis be done in areas  
 22 in which decibel levels are at a certain level. When I  
 23 was doing the reading as I was driving down here  
 24 tonight, I believe that decibel level reading rate was  
 25 -- I can't remember -- somewhere around 80 or something

NO-80

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1 like that; that if you're continually exposed to that,  
2 then there has to be a study done concerning the decibel  
3 levels in that area.

NO-80  
cont'd

4 So, Sandra, I wanted to get some information  
5 there. That was the -- oh, a little bit of levity too.  
6 Steve was talking about levity. Everyone here is  
7 concerned about domestic animals, so immediately I went  
8 to the section on domestic animals, and I was cracking  
9 up. They have this section on wildlife and domestic  
10 animals, and they're going on about how wildlife and  
11 domestic animals will habituate to noise. Again, these  
12 studies were done in the 1980s.

BI-9

13 Well, I looked into those studies, and, again, I  
14 want to emphasize wildlife and domestic animals. The  
15 study that they cited, they base their research on  
16 mountain goats, raptors, and deer. I don't think any of  
17 those are domestic animals. So anyway, it was a great  
18 literature review, full of fun, and I enjoyed it.

19 COLONEL GREGORY: All right.

20 Mr. Rinderknecht.

3013 HO

21 MR. RINDERKNECHT: My name is Les  
22 Rinderknecht. I think most of you know me, or you've at  
23 least heard about me. I hope it's not bad.

24 I really have not read this, I haven't studied  
25 this, so I can't make any qualified comments, as some of

1 you may have. I am the president of the board of  
2 directors for Sivells Baptist Camp. We have the  
3 Sacramento Methodist Assembly.

4 We have kids up on high roads. We have kids that  
5 are walking the lines up there, and I worry about those  
6 kids constantly, without any sonic booms. Something I  
7 think that all of us -- I would really like the Air  
8 Force and our military personnel that are here to know  
9 that I don't think that they will find many places where  
10 they are more supported than they are in this area here  
11 in the mountains. We think the world of our military.  
12 We think they do a wonderful job, and we're proud of  
13 them, all of them.

BI-5

14 Really, these problems that we're concerned with,  
15 I have seven bulls out in the front of my house, and one  
16 of those bulls, I don't like going into the pasture with  
17 him anyway, and I surely don't want to be anywhere in  
18 the pasture when we have a sonic boom. There are  
19 genuine concerns.

20 I agree with everything these people have said  
21 tonight, but it's not against the Air Force or against  
22 you people, of course, because we're definitely in  
23 support of our military, and we realize that you have to  
24 have training somewhere, but I think all of these  
25 problems really need to be addressed so that we can

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1 make, as he was saying, a good decision. Thank you.

2 COLONEL GREGORY: Thanks, sir. Any new  
3 speakers? Any reattacks? You have time.

4 MR. COFFMAN: This will be my last time.

3003 HO

5 Just a quickie on noise. The Air Force has, of course,  
6 no firm numbers in the EIS. They gloss over this 130 dB  
7 structural damage number. They say things like, "Well,  
8 we don't think it will be that high, and therefore don't  
9 worry about structural damage." And then later we find  
10 out that, indeed, the aircraft, with filtered numbers,  
11 where they take out the low frequencies, is indeed right  
12 at 130 dB. So the EIS is incorrect, and it almost  
13 amounts to a lie. On the one hand, you have this 130 dB  
14 number. It's there, and it's filtered. That means the  
15 actual number is up higher. And what do they filter  
16 out? They filter out the very low frequencies. The  
17 F-35 has a really big engine on it. It's not like the  
18 F-22 that has two engines or the Tornados that have two  
19 engines. What does what mean? It means that the big  
20 engine tends to produce more low-frequency noise, and  
21 that affects structures.

NO-31

22 The Air Force has seen fit not to put those  
23 numbers in. They just make a factually incorrect  
24 statement and say, "Not to worry. We don't anticipate  
25 reaching 130 dB." So you have to draw your own

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1 conclusions about that, but it's factually incomplete,  
2 in my view, and it makes it really hard to compare the  
3 alternatives. Again, how does that structural damage  
4 compare here against Boise?

NO-31  
cont'd

NP-29

5 And then as a point of levity, the EIS says the  
6 F-35 is slightly noisier than other aircraft that it  
7 would be replacing. Of course, the F-35 is a close air  
8 support aircraft, among other things, and if you look at  
9 aircraft that fly the same regimen as the F-35, you find  
10 out the F-35 is, in fact, four times noisier or at least  
11 twice as noisy as the aircraft that it's going to  
12 replace.

NO-22

13 So when the Air Force says it's slightly noisier,  
14 that's not factually correct either, and it's kind of  
15 funny.

16 When I first read that, I said, "Whoa, I can't  
17 believe this." They face lawsuits around the United  
18 States because of noise, and you would think they would  
19 come to us on this EIS and give us some information and  
20 say, "Here are the facts." But there are no facts that  
21 I found in the EIS except some generalities about  
22 averages, no other information, which makes it very  
23 dangerous for us under these MTRs because we don't know  
24 what the consequences are, and we cannot compare the  
25 impacts to us and to this alternative against the

NP-29

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Final  
June 2012



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1 alternatives in Arizona or Idaho. We just can't do it.

2 We don't have the information.

3 The whole purpose of the NEPA process is to let  
4 us make a decision, let us see it, let the Air Force see  
5 it, and then make a reasonable decision based on  
6 information. So when they make a document that's full  
7 of fluff and does not have the numbers we need, well, it  
8 makes a mockery of the process. Thank you. I'm  
9 finished.

NP-29  
cont'd

10 COLONEL GREGORY: Any more first-time  
11 speakers? Any reattacks at this point? Well, we still  
12 have about ten minutes. Ms. Harms and I are going to  
13 stay up here. I'm going to recess the hearing in a  
14 minute, but if you change your mind and want to say  
15 anything else, put a comment on the record, we'll be  
16 here. Just come on up, let me know. I will reconvene  
17 the hearing right here, and she will get your comments  
18 down, and they will become part of the formal record.

19 Before I recess the hearing, let me say, I want  
20 to thank you for your time and interest in this F-35A  
21 Training Basing EIS proposal and remind you that tonight  
22 is not the end of your opportunity to participate in  
23 this process. Again, comment sheets are available at  
24 the registration table. You can turn these sheets in  
25 tonight, mail them, fax them later. All the addresses

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1 are on the sheets. The mailing address is there.

2 The Air Force welcomes public comments in writing  
3 at any time during this environmental impact analysis  
4 process, and to receive timely consideration of your  
5 comments, please make sure you get them in by March the  
6 14th, 2012.

7 With that, I'm going to recess the hearing, not  
8 adjourn. Sir?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When you say "get  
10 them in," do they have to be postmarked or received by  
11 then?

3014 HO

12 MS. TAYLOR: Postmarked.

13 COLONEL GREGORY: I'm going to recess. If  
14 you want to make -- Mr. Ward.

15 MR. WARD: Just one.

16 COLONEL GREGORY: Okay.

3011 HO

17 MR. WARD: I'd like to wrap this up with  
18 maybe a not-too-amusing story. 13 years ago, 14 years  
19 ago, I was living in Carlsbad, and I found this Honda  
20 Gold Wing, and I went ahead and bought it, and I had to  
21 go up to Albuquerque to the credit union to get the  
22 money.

23 So I hopped on that sucker, and I was hooking it.  
24 For the people who know, between Carlsbad and  
25 Albuquerque, I made it in three and a half hours. I was

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1 there five minutes, hopped back on, was coming back  
2 between Vaughn and Roswell. I was going 80, 85, and all  
3 you do out there is count antelope. One of these  
4 fighters came over at 100, 150, 500 feet. I have no  
5 idea. I never saw him. But all of a sudden, it's like  
6 "Boom." It's like, "Am I still on the road?" But  
7 things like that can happen. Thank you.

8 COLONEL GREGORY: Okay. Again, Ms. Harms  
9 and I are going to stay up here. If you change your  
10 mind and want to add a comment to the record before  
11 8:00, come up and let me know. For now, we're in  
12 recess. And Air Force reps, they'll be back there  
13 around the display boards to continue to discuss these  
14 things with you.

15 (Recess taken from 7:55 p.m. to 7:58 p.m.,  
16 and a separate comment follows:)

17 COLONEL GREGORY: I'm reconvening the  
18 hearing. We're going to have an additional comment by  
19 someone who has already spoken. Your last name for our  
20 record here?

21 MR. DUNCAN: Duncan, D-u-n-c-a-n. First 3008 HO  
22 name's Jeff.

23 COLONEL GREGORY: All right.

24 MR. DUNCAN: One of the comments I missed  
25 earlier was, by the Air Force Department of Defense's

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1 own standards, they state that anything above 75  
2 decibels is not suitable for residential areas. That's  
3 right in the EIS itself.

4 It's important to keep in mind that the Lincoln  
5 National Forest has inholdings, meaning it's private  
6 land within the national forest that the Air Force flies  
7 over. Those inholdings are not only the communities  
8 such as Weed, Cloudcroft, Mayhill, Sacramento, Pinon and  
9 others, but anywhere from 40- to 80- to 300-acre ranches  
10 with residential structures on them where people live  
11 full-time.

12 So just to be clear, when the Air Force is  
13 viewing flying over the Lincoln National Forest, the  
14 whole national forest is a residential area. It may not  
15 be a city of 25 or 50, but it will be a ranch here, a  
16 half mile away another ranch, 40 acres over here, the 60  
17 acres my wife and I own with another 40 acres across the  
18 road that has a private residence on it. So this whole  
19 area should be considered residential; not just small  
20 towns that are in the mountains. Thank you.

21 COLONEL GREGORY: We're back in recess for  
22 three minutes.

23 (Recess taken from 8:00 p.m. to 8:04 p.m.,  
24 and closing remarks follow:)

25 COLONEL GREGORY: We have had all the

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1 original speakers sign up to speak, and then every one  
2 of those who wanted to have more time has had an  
3 opportunity to speak, so there being no more speakers,  
4 this hearing is adjourned.

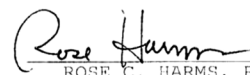
5 (The hearing was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.)

6 \* \* \* \* \*

1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2 I, ROSE C. HARMS, RPR, NM CCR #54, DO HEREBY  
3 CERTIFY that on February 7, 2012, the Proceedings in the  
4 above matter were taken before me, that I did report in  
5 stenographic shorthand the Proceedings set forth herein,  
6 and the foregoing pages are a true and correct  
7 transcription to the best of my ability.

8 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither employed  
9 by nor related to nor contracted with (unless excepted  
10 by the rules) any of the parties or attorneys in this  
11 case, and that I have no interest whatsoever in the  
12 final disposition of this case in any court.

13  
14   
15 ROSE C. HARMS, RPR  
16 New Mexico CCR #54  
17 License Expires: 12-31-12  
18  
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**D.8.2 Transcript from the Holloman Air Force Base Public Hearing  
Held February 8, 2012, in Roswell, New Mexico**

Page 1

PUBLIC HEARING  
U.S. AIR FORCE F-35A TRAINING BASING  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE

February 8, 2012

6:00 p.m.  
Eagles Lodge  
3201 South Sunset Avenue  
Roswell, New Mexico

REPORTED BY: Rose C. Harms, RPR, NM CCR #54

Peterson Reporting, Video & Litigation Services

Page 2

## A P P E A R A N C E S

Hearing Officer:

COLONEL RON GREGORY

For the Air Force:

COLONEL ROBERT COLE  
Mission Support Group Commander  
Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico

MAJOR BRIAN MacFARLAND  
Air Education and Training Command

MR. DAVID MARTIN

MS. KIM FORNOF

Also Present:

MS. LYNN DITTO  
Field Representative, Senator Bingaman

MS. JUDY STUBBS  
Roswell City Council

MR. GLENN FULFER  
National Park Service

Community Speaker:

Ms. Judy Stubbs

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I N D E X

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4	Presentation by Colonel Cole	6
5	Presentation by Major MacFarland	9
6	Presentation by Mr. Martin	11
7	Public Comment By:	
8	Ms. Stubbs	22
9	Reporter's Certificate	25
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1 community informed throughout the NEPA process. In  
2 addition to holding these public hearings, the Air Force  
3 has established a website to make it easy for you to  
4 find and review the environmental documents. The draft  
5 EIS is posted on the website, as well as additional  
6 information, and the fact sheets are available here  
7 tonight.

8 You may also review a hard copy of the draft EIS  
9 by visiting one of six public libraries listed in the  
10 NEPA handout you received.

11 Comments on the draft EIS may be provided orally  
12 or in writing here tonight or by fax, e-mail, or mailing  
13 written comments to this address. All of this  
14 information is provided on the comment form and on the  
15 project website.

16 Now, at this time, I'd like to turn the  
17 presentation over to Colonel Gregory, who will  
18 facilitate the oral comment session. Thank you for your  
19 time.

20 COLONEL GREGORY: At this time, I would  
21 normally go over the procedures that I follow for oral  
22 comments, but I don't have anyone signed up to make any  
23 oral comments, so I'm not going to go through that  
24 unless someone wants to make a comment.

25 Again, as David mentioned, tonight is certainly

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1 not the end of the opportunity to make comments about  
 2 this. You can submit written comments tonight or at any  
 3 time up to March the 14th of 2012. And, as he  
 4 mentioned, there's no page limit on written comments,  
 5 and the Air Force gives equal weight to both oral and  
 6 written comments.

7 Now, Ms. Harms and I are going to stay here at  
 8 the table until the scheduled end time of 8:00 so that  
 9 if somebody changes their mind or if somebody comes in  
 10 late, we'll be here to take their comment. I'll recess  
 11 the hearing, and we'll be available to take a comment if  
 12 someone would like to.

3015 HO

13 MS. STUBBS: I've decided I would like to  
 14 make an oral comment.

15 COLONEL GREGORY: I'll give you an  
 16 abbreviated rundown of the procedure, if that's all  
 17 right.

18 We allow three minutes to ensure that everyone  
 19 who wants to speak has an opportunity to do so, but I  
 20 don't think that's going to be an issue tonight, but I  
 21 have to use the same procedure for every hearing.

22 So, ma'am, why don't you come on up, and as you  
 23 begin your comment, would you state your name so  
 24 Ms. Harms can identify in the record who is doing the  
 25 talking.

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1 MS. STUBBS: Where would you like me? Right  
 2 up here?

3 COLONEL GREGORY: Right up here. The floor  
 4 is yours. There you go, ma'am.

5 MS. STUBBS: To make this all worthwhile for  
 6 you, my name is Judy Stubbs, S-t-u-b-b-s. I have lived  
 7 here in Roswell almost 32 years. I'm a member of the  
 8 Roswell City Council, and I have been in that position  
 9 -- I'm finishing up my 16th year. For approximately 14  
 10 of those years, I have served as either chair or a  
 11 member of our Airport Committee, so I've been very  
 12 closely related to the activities that have been going  
 13 on at the RIAC for quite some time.

14 I first want to congratulate Holloman Air Force  
 15 Base for being one of the four being considered for this  
 16 Pilot Training Center, and I'm here to tell you that I  
 17 can't speak other than personally, but I do believe that  
 18 the city of Roswell certainly would welcome being an  
 19 auxiliary location for this project.

GE-3

20 As most of you know who have toured the Air  
 21 Center, we certainly have above-adequate fire and rescue  
 22 services. The runway certainly should be adequate for  
 23 your needs, and the Air Center has welcomed aviation-  
 24 type training programs for -- I'm going to say over 60  
 25 years now, so the community is used to this type of

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1 activity.

2 Something you may not know, and I don't know how  
3 necessary this would be, but we do have two pretty  
4 decent dormitory facilities at the Air Center. One is  
5 not being used at all, and the other will be vacated  
6 within the next year, and they're quite adequate.

7 So again, personally I would welcome Roswell  
8 being a part of this nation's air defense program  
9 through being an auxiliary location. Thank you.

10 COLONEL GREGG: Thank you, Ms. Stubbs.  
11 Maybe that was a comment being phoned in. I don't know.

12 Anyone else? At this time, I'll recess the  
13 hearing, and Ms. Harms and I will remain here to take a  
14 comment. If anyone present changes their mind and wants  
15 to make a comment or if we have a late arrival and that  
16 person wants to make a comment, we're here.

17 So at this time, before I recess the hearing, let  
18 me advise the three of you who are here, just so you  
19 know -- we've mentioned this a couple of times, but I  
20 want to foot-stomp it -- this is not the end of your  
21 opportunity to participate in this environmental review  
22 process. Again, written comment sheets are available at  
23 the registration table. You can turn these in tonight,  
24 fax or mail them later. The mailing address and I  
25 believe the fax number is printed on those sheets, and

GE-3  
cont'd

1 the Air Force will welcome comments in writing at any  
2 time during this process, but please get those  
3 postmarked by March the 14th, 2012.

4 At this time, this hearing is adjourned.

5 (Recess taken from 6:34 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.,  
6 and closing remarks follow:)

7 COLONEL GREGORY: There being no more  
8 speakers, this hearing is adjourned.

9 (The hearing was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.)

10 \* \* \* \* \*

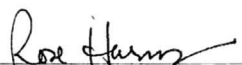
D.8.3 Transcript from the Holloman Air Force Base Public Hearing  
Held February 9, 2012, in Alamogordo, New Mexico

Page 25

## REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

1 I, ROSE C. HARMS, RPR, NM CCR #54, DO HEREBY  
2  
3 CERTIFY that on February 8, 2012, the Proceedings in the  
4 above matter were taken before me, that I did report in  
5 stenographic shorthand the Proceedings set forth herein,  
6 and the foregoing pages are a true and correct  
7 transcription to the best of my ability.

8 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither employed  
9 by nor related to nor contracted with (unless excepted  
10 by the rules) any of the parties or attorneys in this  
11 case, and that I have no interest whatsoever in the  
12 final disposition of this case in any court.

13  
14   
15 ROSE C. HARMS, RPR  
16 New Mexico CCR #54  
17 License Expires: 12-31-12  
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Page 1

PUBLIC HEARING  
U.S. AIR FORCE F-35A TRAINING BASING  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE

February 9, 2012

6:00 p.m.  
Alamo Senior Center  
2201 Puerto Rico Avenue  
Alamogordo, New Mexico

REPORTED BY: Rose C. Harms, RPR, NM CCR #54

Peterson Reporting, Video &amp; Litigation Services

Final  
June 2012



# A P P E A R A N C E S

Hearing Officer:

COLONEL RON GREGORY

For the Air Force:

COLONEL DAVID KRUMM  
Wing Commander  
Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico

MAJOR BRIAN MacFARLAND  
Air Education and Training Command

MR. DAVID MARTIN

Also Present:

MS. DARA PARKER  
Field Representative, Senator Bingaman

MS. ELIZABETH DRIGGERS  
Field Representative, Senator Udall

MR. JOE MARTINEZ  
Field Representative, Senator Pearce

MS. ANN FRENCH  
Planning & Zoning, City of Alamogordo

Community Speakers:

Ms. Dory Schuster  
Mr. Gary Schuster  
Mr. Howard Eberts

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# I N D E X

Page

Opening Remarks by Colonel Gregory

4

Presentation by Colonel Krumm

6

Presentation by Major MacFarland

10

Presentation by Mr. Martin

12

Public Comment By:

Ms. Schuster

23

Mr. Schuster

27

Mr. Eberts

30

Reporter's Certificate

31

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1 the posters back there to talk to you about things.  
2 And, again, as you're speaking with them, if you decide  
3 that you'd like to make a comment on the record, just  
4 come up to this table and let me know. I'll be right  
5 here.

6 Let me remind everyone, as David mentioned a  
7 couple of times, tonight is not the end of your  
8 opportunity to participate in the environmental review  
9 process. Again, written comment sheets are available at  
10 the registration table. You can turn these sheets in  
11 tonight or mail or fax them later, and the mailing  
12 address and fax number and all that information is on  
13 the sheets.

14 The Air Force welcomes public comments in writing  
15 at any time during the Environmental Impact Analysis  
16 process. To receive timely consideration for the final  
17 EIS, all comments must be submitted by March the 14th,  
18 2012, and there is no page limit on written comments  
19 that you submit. The Air Force gives equal weight to  
20 oral and written comments.

21 So at this time, what I'm going to do, there  
22 being no one signed up to speak yet, I'm going to recess  
23 the hearing, and Ms. Harms and I will remain over here  
24 at this table. If you change your mind and would like  
25 to make a statement, just come up, let me know, and I'll

1 formally convene the hearing right over here at the  
2 table, and we'll take your statement on the record.

3 With that, the hearing is in recess.

4 (Recess taken from 6:30 p.m. to 6:32 p.m.,  
5 and a separate comment follows:)

6 COLONEL GREGORY: We're back on the record  
7 because Ms. Schuster has elected to make an oral comment  
8 on the record here tonight.

9 Ms. Schuster, I didn't go through the whole drill  
10 about how the oral comment session works, because I  
11 didn't have any speakers, but let me just say, what we  
12 do to make it fair for everyone -- it's not going to be  
13 an issue tonight, but each speaker has three minutes.  
14 We're not going to hold the cards, but I'll kind of  
15 watch, and if you need more time and no one else is in  
16 line to speak, I'll certainly give you more time.  
17 So with that, ma'am, the floor is yours.

18 MS. SCHUSTER: All right. Although we love  
19 and support our troops and our government, we have  
20 opposition to what is taking place in our community.

21 Being a native New Mexican and having been around  
22 the military for many years, most of my life, I have  
23 never seen occurring what is occurring now since the  
24 F-22 arrived.

25 My concern surfaced when the sonic booms began

3016 HO

GE-4

Page 24

1 and when there was lack of transparency and disclosure  
2 found that wasn't offered to the public.

NP-43

3 Since then, we have had different missions come  
4 into the area that, too, have lacked transparency and  
5 disclosure to the public, and now we have this F-35  
6 mission that's proposed, and the concern has grown even  
7 greater.

NP-35

8 I've been a part of this since the scoping  
9 meetings began. Again, I've read the document in the  
10 entirety. I feel that it would add insult to injury. I  
11 feel like what's being done in New Mexico could not be  
12 done anywhere else. There is error throughout. It is a  
13 flawed document, very flawed.

NP-13

14 I understand other people in New Mexico agree  
15 with that, including the Weed residents that were  
16 present last night or two nights ago.

17 There's error in the noise levels that would be  
18 affecting the public. I am concerned not only for me  
19 and my family; I am concerned for the children of New  
20 Mexico. I am concerned for the people who cannot speak  
21 for themselves who I represent and who -- minorities,  
22 the Indian indigenous groups, that are being affected  
23 that don't have a voice, that don't offer a voice  
24 oftentimes because of their culture.

NO-4

EJ-2

EJ-4

25 I am concerned over erroneous information about

BI-5

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Page 25

1 the lack of effect on animals when we have been  
2 sonic-boomed already going on four years. We were lied  
3 to on the EA. Not the EIS. It was for the F-22. It  
4 was a major project for NEPA. We were lied to there.  
5 We were told 20 to 25 sonic booms a month. We've had  
6 that many in a few minutes of time.

BI-5  
cont'd

NP-43

NO-25  
NO-8

7 I have seen people with blood gushing through  
8 their nose after sonic booms. I have heard bones pop.  
9 I have seen pregnant women run in the Hastings  
10 bookstore. I have seen asthmatic children suffering  
11 because of what they feel. There are animals that have  
12 run wild that have not habituated, and per Air Force  
13 documents, in a few weeks they habituate. We have seen  
14 environment change, birds who did not return. We have  
15 seen pollutants be dumped on people in our backyards of  
16 chaff, aluminum chaff, or glass-covered whatever.

NO-6

AQ-1

BI-5  
BI-3

DO-13

17 And overall, I'm just concerned that, again, that  
18 this is not an appropriate mission as is now because we  
19 keep hearing that the airspace that will be used as  
20 existing airspace -- what has failed to be told to the  
21 public is that a taking took place to accommodate the  
22 -22 that increased the airspace of the Air Force to  
23 include the space over communities, including our homes,  
24 schools, hospital, and many communities.

AM-3

LU-6

25 So oftentimes we're told the sonic booms is

NO-25

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1 coming from a hundred miles away or can be heard. No,  
 2 it isn't. They're often over our house and close by.  
 3 So that's an issue that many people don't know but many  
 4 do know now, and it's affecting many, and it will be  
 5 detrimental to the public health and well-being and our  
 6 safety also, having these trainers over our heads, our  
 7 homes.

NO-25  
cont'd

NO-6

SA-16

SA-1

8 And there's constitutional laws that are involved  
 9 in this and amendments that are involved and that have  
 10 not been addressed when all this has come into our  
 11 communities.

NP-43

12 Furthermore, there's other missions coming in  
 13 here aside from this, where, like again, what's done  
 14 here in New Mexico couldn't be done elsewhere. Those  
 15 things have come in here with no EA, no EIS, but it's  
 16 here, and it's against NEPA federal law.

17 COLONEL GREGORY: All right. Thank you,  
 18 ma'am. We're back in recess.

19 (Recess taken from 6:37 p.m. to 6:42 p.m.,  
 20 and a separate comment follows:)

21 COLONEL GREGORY: I am reconvening the  
 22 hearing because another gentleman has elected to make a  
 23 statement. It's Mr. Schuster. Sir, the floor is yours.

24 As I told the previous speaker, I didn't go  
 25 through all of the ground rules, because there were no

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Page 27

1 speakers, but to be fair to everyone, we limit the  
 2 comments to three minutes, and I can be a little  
 3 flexible. I don't see time as an issue tonight, but  
 4 I'll let you know when you have got about a minute left.  
 5 If you need to say more and no one else is in line to  
 6 speak, I'll give you another three minutes.

7 MR. SCHUSTER: I appreciate it.

8 COLONEL GREGORY: The floor is yours.

3017 HO

9 MR. SCHUSTER: I thank you for the  
 10 opportunity to be able to come here to speak this  
 11 evening. That the Air Force provided this opportunity,  
 12 I appreciate that. We do support the Air Force, and  
 13 myself, I am a veteran, actually.

14 One of the concerns I had in Mr. Martin's  
 15 presentation, he mentioned the noise, which I believe is  
 16 probably of real concern to most of the residents here  
 17 in this area. He mentioned the 65 DNL, which is an  
 18 average, and I told him, in my opinion, that's somewhat  
 19 misleading by the way they do that.

NO-1

NO-4

20 He said it does show in the document. I asked  
 21 him if they show the calculations of how they arrived at  
 22 that 65 DNL, that obviously there must be a min and a  
 23 max number and they averaged that out, but I didn't see  
 24 that. He said it is somewhere in that document.

NO-28

25 But I told him that I think, really, the public

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1 and the evaluators should be more concerned with the  
2 max, considering that I'm not too concerned about the  
3 10, 20 dB noise at night while I'm sleeping, but  
4 certainly if it's up at 125 dB, that wakes me up in the  
5 afternoon, that's -- I think we should bring that up.

NO-57  
NO-13  
NO-2

6 Again, when we do these kind of analyses, if  
7 you're looking at a worker in the workplace and you're  
8 evaluating the noise that that worker is exposed to, I  
9 understand that they calculate -- it's a time issue  
10 because if that worker's exposed to noise four hours a  
11 day, six hours a day, eight hours a day, the duration  
12 does have a significant impact on hearing damage.

13 But they don't evaluate the time between midnight  
14 and 3:00 in the morning, when there is no noise at all.  
15 I mean, you look at evaluating the actual time exposed  
16 to that noise and that peak noise.

NO-102

17 Again, I think in this document we should bring  
18 out what that max number is, because if I took an  
19 average on Saturday and Sunday, when the aircraft are  
20 not flying at all, I could maybe pull the number down to  
21 50 dB. If I factored in Christmas, when we shut down  
22 for a week, we could be down to 40. I think that's a  
23 really misleading way of presenting what that noise  
24 value is. I think we should really focus on -- and,  
25 granted, the max is not a continuous thing. It's a --

NO-13  
NO-57

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1 perhaps a sonic boom, it's a millisecond/second-type  
2 thing, but that is more of a concern than the average  
3 number.

NO-13  
NO-57  
cont'd

4 The other thing that I had a concern about, I  
5 understand there's an agreement between Holloman Air  
6 Force Base, White Sands Missile Range, and the Federal  
7 Aviation Administration. I didn't see any of that  
8 documentation within the publication, and I believe  
9 that's supposed to be in there, that letter of  
10 agreement, because it calls out the specifics of a lot  
11 of this use of airspace and how it is shared, because  
12 basically the FAA does rule the skies. So I don't know  
13 if that was an omission by intention or how it happened.

AM-15

14 But, really, that's my comment. Again, I  
15 appreciate the time. Thank you.

16 COLONEL GREGORY: We're back in recess.

17 (Recess taken from 6:46 p.m. to 7:01 p.m.,  
18 and a separate comment follows:)

19 COLONEL GREGORY: The hearing is reconvened.  
20 Mr. Howard Eberts has approached us and decided he'd  
21 like to put a statement on the record. I've told the  
22 others that I didn't go through all the ground rules,  
23 since no one was going to speak, but let me just say  
24 that generally you have three minute, and I'll let you  
25 know when you're getting close to the end.

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1 MR. EBERTS: Okay. I can handle that.

2 COLONEL GREGORY: The floor is yours.

3018 HO

3 MR. EBERTS: Okay. Alamogordo is the ideal  
4 community for what you're looking for to have a training  
5 area. The weather, the climate, the people, all fall  
6 right into exactly what you need to do it.

7 80 percent of the community in Alamogordo are  
8 prior military, active military, or had family that was  
9 military and decided to stay here.

GE-3

10 I stand behind the military out there on the base  
11 100 percent. I put in 26-1/2 years in the military,  
12 retired as a chief here at Holloman. My second tour  
13 here, I decided this is where I was going to stay.

14 That's about all I can say. If you need support,  
15 the town is behind you.

16 COLONEL GREGORY: All right, sir. Thank you  
17 for your comments, and, also, thank you for your  
18 service.

19 MR. EBERTS: Thank you, sir.

20 (Recess taken from 7:02 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.,  
21 and closing remarks follow:)

22 COLONEL GREGORY: There being no more  
23 speakers, this hearing is adjourned.

24 (The hearing was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.)

25

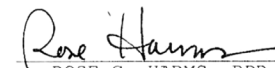
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## REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2 I, ROSE C. HARMS, RPR, NM CCR #54, DO HEREBY  
3 CERTIFY that on February 9, 2012, the Proceedings in the  
4 above matter were taken before me, that I did report in  
5 stenographic shorthand the Proceedings set forth herein,  
6 and the foregoing pages are a true and correct  
7 transcription to the best of my ability.

8 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither employed  
9 by nor related to nor contracted with (unless excepted  
10 by the rules) any of the parties or attorneys in this  
11 case, and that I have no interest whatsoever in the  
12 final disposition of this case in any court.



ROSE C. HARMS, RPR  
New Mexico CCR #54  
License Expires: 12-31-12

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D.8.4 Transcript from the Luke Air Force Base Public Hearing Held  
February 13, 2012, in Litchfield Park, Arizona

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Reported by: Deborah Cleary, RPR/CR Certified Reporter Certification No. 50663	
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1 THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT SESSION was  
 2 taken on February 13, 2012, commencing at 6:00 p.m. at the  
 3 Wigwam Resort, 300 Wigwam Blvd., Ballroom, Litchfield  
 4 Park, Arizona, before Deborah Cleary, RPR, CR, a Certified  
 5 Reporter in the State of Arizona.

6 \* \* \*

#### 7 A P P E A R A N C E S

11 COLONEL RON GREGORY  
 12 United States Air Force  
 13 Hearing Officer

14 Colonel Robert Webb  
 15 Vice Commander 56th Fighter Wing  
 16 Luke Air Force Base

17 Mr. David Martin  
 18 Civilian Contractor  
 19 Air Education and Training Command  
 20 Project Manager for the F-35A  
 21 Training Basing Environmental Impact Study

22 \*\*\*\*\*

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#### 1 PRESENTATION

2 COL. GREGORY: Thank you, Mayor Schoaf. The time  
 3 is now 6:00 p.m., and we'll go ahead and start the  
 4 hearing. I want to thank you for coming out this evening  
 5 to this public hearing for the F-35A Training Basing  
 6 Environmental Impact Statement. Now that's a mouthful, so  
 7 you'll often hear that referred to as simply an EIS.

8 I'm Colonel Ron Gregory. I'll be your hearing  
 9 officer tonight. My day job is as a judge on the Air  
 10 Force court of criminal appeals back in DC, and I  
 11 sometimes assist with hearings like this. I don't work  
 12 for anybody at Luke Air Force Base or the Air Education  
 13 and Training Command. And I'm not involved in any way  
 14 with the development of this draft EIS. And I don't act  
 15 as a legal advisor to any of the representatives who are  
 16 working on this proposal.

17 My role here tonight is simply as an impartial  
 18 moderator to ensure that we have a fair, orderly, and an  
 19 impartial hearing where you have an opportunity to make  
 20 comments on this proposal. Tonight's hearing is being  
 21 transcribed verbatim by Ms. Deborah Cleary who's seated  
 22 over here by me.

23 We're here tonight because the Air Force is  
 24 analyzing the environmental impacts of the proposed  
 25 establishment of the pilot training center with F-35A

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1 training aircraft. The hearing is held in accordance with  
2 the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act,  
3 or NEPA, and regulations published by the Council on  
4 Environmental Quality. The purpose of the hearing is to  
5 receive your comments on the draft EIS.

6 But tonight is just one of several opportunities  
7 for public comment. Please keep in mind that the hearing  
8 is not a debate. It's not a vote on the draft EIS, and  
9 it's not just a question-and-answer session. The hearing  
10 is an opportunity for you to express your views, your  
11 concerns about the adequacy of the environmental analysis  
12 and the potential environmental impacts associated with  
13 the proposal as well as any issues related to the National  
14 Historic Preservation Act process. Comments about other  
15 unrelated issues will not help the decision maker.

16 During the first part of the hearing, Air Force  
17 representatives will provide you with information about  
18 the project and the environmental impact analysis process.  
19 We have with us tonight Colonel Webb, vice-commander from  
20 Luke Air Force Base, and from the Air Force's Air  
21 Education and Training Command, Mr. David Martin, an Air  
22 Force contractor. I'd also like to welcome the several  
23 public officials who have joined us here tonight.

24 After the presentations, then I'll open the floor  
25 for your comments if you would like to make a statement on

1 the record here tonight. Your comments will provide the  
2 decision makers the benefit of your knowledge of the local  
3 area and your concerns about the environmental analysis.  
4 And with that, I'll turn the presentation over to Colonel  
5 Webb from Luke. Colonel.

6 COL. WEBB: Good evening and thank you for coming  
7 out tonight. My name is Colonel Robert Webb, the  
8 vice-commander of the 56th Fighter Wing. And on behalf of  
9 the United States Air Force and Luke Air Force Base, I  
10 would like to welcome you to the public hearings for the  
11 F-35A training base environmental impact statement or EIS.

12 Hopefully you had the opportunity to talk with  
13 the many knowledgeable experts staffing the poster  
14 stations and to learn more about the Air Force's proposal  
15 which is to establish a pilot training center with F-35A  
16 training aircraft at one or more Air Force or Air National  
17 Guard installations. Four alternative locations are being  
18 evaluated in the EIS, one being Luke Air Force Base.

19 Let's begin by reviewing the agenda for tonight.  
20 I will give a brief overview of Luke Air Force Base, and  
21 then we'll discuss the F-35A training program and  
22 aircraft. Next Mr. David Martin will provide an overview  
23 of the environmental impact statement, or correction,  
24 environmental impact analysis process and the results  
25 specific to Luke Air Force Base.

1 The last item on the agenda is the most  
2 important. The public comment session is your opportunity  
3 to provide information and make statements for the record.  
4 This is one of four public hearings the Air Force is  
5 holding in our region. The Air Force is holding a total  
6 of 13 public hearings to ensure the public has had ample  
7 opportunity to the learn about and comment on the F-35  
8 training base EIS.

9 Before we tell you about the comprehensive EIS  
10 process and analysis, I would like to first provide an  
11 overview of Luke Air Force Base, our mission and our  
12 operations.

13 Luke Air Force Base is home to the 56th Fighter  
14 Wing, the largest fighter wing in the Air Force with 160  
15 aircraft, 25 squadrons and four tenant units. As the only  
16 active duty F-16 training wing in the Air Force, more than  
17 50 percent of the Air Force's fighter pilots and 90  
18 percent of its F-16 pilots are trained right here at Luke.  
19 F-16 combat pilots currently in Afghanistan were all  
20 trained at Luke. The number of F-16s at Luke has been  
21 steadily decreasing due to force reduction over the past  
22 decade.

23 Home to generations of fighter aircraft since  
24 they first arrived in 1941, Luke Air Force Base now has a  
25 base population of 5,900 active duty military personnel

1 and Department of Defense civilian employees along with  
2 15,000 family members. More than 400 pilot graduate from  
3 Luke annually and proceed to combat assignments throughout  
4 the world.

5 Luke Air Force Base covers more than 3,000 acres  
6 of land in an average elevation of 1,085 feet. In  
7 addition to the air space around the base, we also train  
8 at Luke Air Force Base auxiliary field, known as Aux-1.  
9 And we additionally train at the Gila Bend Air Force  
10 auxiliary field just to the south right there,  
11 (indicating).

12 Integral to the pilot training mission at Luke is  
13 the 1.8 million-acre Barry M. Goldwater range. The range  
14 includes air space where pilots practice air-to-air  
15 maneuvers and against simulated battlefield targets on the  
16 ground. The size of the complex allows for simultaneous  
17 training activities on nine air-to-ground and two  
18 air-to-air ranges. More than 50 aircrews and aircraft can  
19 simultaneously operate on the range while performing many  
20 independent training missions. Active duty, guard, and  
21 reserve combat pilots from the U.S. Air Force, Army, Navy  
22 and Marine Corps train on this range.

23 Because of the many attributes that Luke Air  
24 Force Base offers, our installation is one of four  
25 training locations under consideration for the siting of

1 an F-35A pilot training center and training aircraft.

2 I will now discuss the F-35A training program and  
3 aircraft. The F-35 aircraft is an outcome of the Joint  
4 Strike Fighter Program which is a joint multinational  
5 program among the United States Air Force, Navy, Marine  
6 Corps and nine international partners. The joint strike  
7 fighter program merged several independent government  
8 projects working on next generation strike aircraft. The  
9 goal was to build an affordable universal fighter that  
10 would meet the needs of all participants.

11 Three versions of the strike fighter were  
12 developed to meet the varying operational needs of the  
13 military services. The Air Force version of the aircraft  
14 is the F-35A which is the conventional takeoff and landing  
15 model of the F-35. The F-35 is absolutely essential to  
16 the nation's security strategy. It is the newest and most  
17 advanced fifth generation fighter and is needed to deter  
18 and defeat 21st century threats. The F-35 is intended to  
19 be the Air Force's premier strike aircraft through the  
20 first half of the 21st century offering low visibility,  
21 close and long-range air-to-ground and air-to-air  
22 capability, enhanced precision strike capability and  
23 sophisticated electronic warfare capabilities. The  
24 multifaceted F-35A would fulfill a wide range of roles and  
25 missions currently conducted by F-16 and A-10 aircraft and

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1 would complement the F-22.

2 The F-35 is more effective than current fighter  
3 aircraft in air-to-ground combat, air-to-air combat,  
4 reconnaissance and suppression of enemy area defenses. It  
5 has better range and will require less logistical support.  
6 Features of the aircraft making it a cutting edge aircraft  
7 are low visibility, supportability, and weapons. The  
8 F-35A is designed to cost 40 to 50 percent less to operate  
9 and support than comparable current general generation  
10 aircraft. The Air Force has evaluated the potential  
11 environmental impacts associated with the proposed basing  
12 of F-35A training aircraft.

13 For more information about the environmental  
14 impact analysis process and findings, I will now turn the  
15 presentation over to Mr. David Martin. Thank you.

16 MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Colonel Webb. My name is  
17 David Martin. And I'm a contractor with the Air Education  
18 and Training Command and a project manager for the F-35A  
19 Training Basing Environmental Impact Statement.

20 The draft EIS was prepared by the Air Force to  
21 comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, or  
22 better known as NEPA. The draft EIS is an important part  
23 of the Air Force's overall commitment to environmental  
24 stewardship.

25 The EIS was initiated back in December of 2009.

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1 An early part of the EIS process included 23 public  
2 scoping meetings, five of which were held here around the  
3 Luke Air Force Base area. And this enabled the Air Force  
4 to provide input on the proposed action, the alternatives  
5 under consideration, and environmental resources and  
6 issues to be analyzed.

7 Government agencies, elected officials, tribes,  
8 community and environmental organizations and individuals  
9 were encouraged to submit comments at the scoping meetings  
10 or to provide written comments throughout the scoping  
11 period. The comments received were considered in  
12 preparation of this draft EIS.

13 The draft EIS is a result of an extensive  
14 analysis and consideration of public and agency comments  
15 received during the scoping period. It is a complex and  
16 comprehensive document, so I'd like to provide an overview  
17 of what is included in our findings.

18 First of all, when we conduct an EIS, we have to  
19 select a no action alternative and a proposed action to be  
20 analyzed. NEPA requires federal agencies to consider a no  
21 action alternative when preparing an EIS. Under the no  
22 action alternative, the establishment of a pilot training  
23 center and basing of F-35A aircraft would not take place.

24 At each alternative location, the no action  
25 alternative constitutes what we call a baseline or current

1 conditions and allows the decision makers to compare the  
2 magnitude of the effects of the no action to the effects  
3 of the proposed action.

4 As mentioned before, the proposed action is to  
5 establish a pilot training center with an associated  
6 basing of F-35A training aircraft at one or more Air Force  
7 or Air National Guard installations.

8 Installations with adequate military air space  
9 and facilities are needed to accommodate the training of  
10 F-35A pilots and personnel. Training would include the  
11 use of flare countermeasures and supersonic flight as  
12 permitted in authorized air space. Furthermore, training  
13 would also include the use of munitions at approved  
14 military ranges and the use of auxiliary air fields to  
15 diversify this training.

16 The Air Force looked at four basing locations in  
17 the draft EIS. Each location for F-35A is an alternative  
18 for the purpose of this EIS. The alternate locations that  
19 we looked at were Boise Air National Guard Station in  
20 Idaho, Holloman Air Force in New Mexico, Luke Air Force  
21 Base here in Arizona, and Tucson International Airport Air  
22 Guard Station in Arizona as well.

23 The Air Force evaluated the potential  
24 environmental impacts of establishing the F-35A pilot  
25 training center and aircraft training squadrons at each of

Page 13

1 these alternate locations. The Air Force analyzed the  
2 impacts of basing in increments of 24 aircraft from 24 to  
3 144 aircraft, depending on the capacity of the candidate  
4 installations.

5 Currently, the Air Force's preferred alternative  
6 is to base a pilot training center with 72 F-35A training  
7 aircraft at Luke Air Force Base. However, no decision  
8 regarding the proposal will be made until after the  
9 environmental impact analysis process is complete.

10 The environmental analysis process was conducted  
11 using six basing scenarios. As part of the analysis, the  
12 Air Force assessed basing up to 144 F-35A training  
13 aircraft at Luke Air Force Base. As shown in this  
14 aircraft basing scenario table, the scenarios reflect the  
15 programmed retirement or relocation of some F-16s with 26  
16 remaining at Luke. Again, this information is provided in  
17 all the printed materials that you gathered here tonight.

18 F-35A flight training activities would take place  
19 at Luke in existing air space only and ranges. No  
20 modifications to air space would be required, and proposed  
21 training activities would be consistent with existing air  
22 space operations that we see today.

23 The Air Force analyzed potential environmental  
24 consequences associated with changes in personnel,  
25 construction or renovation of facilities, and new training

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1 activities in existing military air space and ranges and  
2 at Aux-1 and Gila Bend Air Force auxiliary airfields.

3 Specific categories evaluated in the  
4 environmental impact statement are listed up here. And  
5 you can find the extensive details of the evaluation in  
6 the draft EIS and in the fact summary sheet distributed  
7 tonight. Public comments received during the scoping  
8 period conducted in 2010 mainly concentrated on potential  
9 noise impacts on the community. So with that said, I'd  
10 like to spend a little bit of time on talking about the  
11 impacts of noise.

12 What you see up here is a noise contour map for  
13 areas surrounding Luke Air Force Base for baseline  
14 conditions and for each aircraft basing scenario.

15 The blue lining, the blue line up here, indicates  
16 baseline or current conditions of 168 F-16 aircraft. And  
17 these subsequent contours represent the six aircraft  
18 basing scenarios. The noise contours reflect the 65  
19 decibel day/night average sound level, or DNL, which is a  
20 sound level averaged over a 24-hour period with an  
21 adjustment for late night noises. 65 decibel DNL is a  
22 threshold above which certain land uses such as  
23 residential are not considered compatible by the Federal  
24 Aviation Administration, or FAA, or the Air Force unless  
25 measures are taken to ensure that interior noise level

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1 goals are met.

2           The Air Force analyzed the noise effects  
3 associate with training activities on human annoyance and  
4 health, physical effects on structures, and biological,  
5 land use, socioeconomic and cultural resources.

6           Sound levels were analyzed for noise sensitive  
7 locations which include local schools, hospitals, and  
8 places of worship. The methodology used to assess and  
9 quantify noise impacts is more thoroughly described in the  
10 draft EIS, and we encourage you to review this document in  
11 much greater detail as we go through the process here.

12           The analysis indicates that under baseline  
13 conditions, approximately 1,600 off-installation residents  
14 are affected by noise levels greater than 65 decibel DNL.  
15 Under the first three basing scenarios, including the  
16 preferred alternative, the number of affected  
17 off-installation residents within the 65 decibel DNL or  
18 greater noise contour would decrease from baseline  
19 conditions. Under the remaining scenarios, L4 through L6,  
20 the number would increase by approximately 600 to 3,700  
21 people.

22           The number of off-installation persons exposed to  
23 outdoor noise levels greater than 80 decibel DNL would  
24 range from an existing 2 persons to up to 14 persons under  
25 scenario L6. Exposure to noise levels above 80 decibel

1 DNL for eight hours per day over 40 years could increase  
2 the risk of partial hearing loss.

3           A small percentage of F-35A aircraft operations  
4 would occur after 10:00 p.m. As a result, the likelihood  
5 of sleep disturbance, averaged among the locations  
6 studied, would decrease under all the scenarios at all of  
7 the locations studied. Again, I encourage you all to  
8 review the EIS and the fact sheets you received tonight  
9 for more information.

10           Okay. As shown previously, this is a map of the  
11 training airspace and ranges regularly used here at Luke  
12 Air Force Base. F-35A training operations would increase  
13 subsonic noise levels on the areas under training  
14 airspace. Noise created by aircraft exceeding the speed  
15 of sound, or going supersonic, would decrease or remain  
16 the same under airspace currently approved for supersonic  
17 training. Noise impacts from live and inert munitions  
18 training at the Barry M. Goldwater would not result in any  
19 significant noise impact increases.

20           The Air Force would continue to adhere to all  
21 existing FAA and local avoidance measures and procedures,  
22 flight restrictions, and scheduling adjustments.

23           The EIS also provides detailed noise analysis for  
24 locations that would serve as auxiliary air fields for  
25 training aircraft. The noise contour maps shown here

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1 reflect the potential noise impacts from F-35A training  
2 aircraft on areas surrounding Gila Bend Air Force  
3 Auxiliary Air Field and what is known as Aux-1.

4 The number of residents affected by noise levels  
5 greater than 65 decibel DNL in the vicinity of Gila Bend  
6 Air Force Auxiliary Air Field would increase from 3 to up  
7 to 15 persons under scenario L2 through L6. For Aux-1,  
8 the number of residents affected by noise levels would  
9 decrease under all basing scenarios except scenario L6.

10 So up to this point, the Air Force has completed  
11 the first three steps of the NEPA process. We are now at  
12 the fourth step, providing the draft EIS for public review  
13 and comment. This phase is an essential part of the NEPA  
14 process because it allows you, the public, to review the  
15 draft EIS and comment on the Air Force's analysis of  
16 potential environmental effects. We encourage you to  
17 provide your input here tonight or by March 14th so that  
18 it can be considered for incorporation in the final EIS.

19 The Air Force is committed to keeping the  
20 community informed throughout the NEPA process. In  
21 addition to holding these public hearings, the Air Force  
22 has established a website to make it easier for you to  
23 find and review the environmental documents that were  
24 prepared. The draft EIS is posted on the website as well  
25 as additional information.

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1 You may also review a hard copy of the draft EIS  
2 by visiting one of the seven public libraries listed in  
3 the NEPA handout you received tonight. Comments on the  
4 draft EIS may be provided orally or in writing here  
5 tonight or by fax, e-mail, or mailing written comments to  
6 this address shown up here. All of this information is  
7 provided on the comment form and on the project website.

8 Now at this time, I'd like to turn the  
9 presentation over that to Col. Gregory who will facilitate  
10 the oral comment session. Thank you for your time.

11 COL. GREGORY: Thanks, David. We'll now move  
12 into the public comment part of the hearing. And here's  
13 how that works. I used these speaker signup cards that  
14 those of you who want to speak filled out to call folks up  
15 to the mic. If you'd like to make an oral comment here  
16 tonight and haven't yet filled out one of these white  
17 cards, just raise your hand and one of the reps will get  
18 you one.

19 The hearing procedure gives three minutes to each  
20 speaker. When I call your name, please come on up to the  
21 mic. And Allison, she'll be seated right over there in  
22 the middle, she'll start the clock when you're ready. And  
23 to help Ms. Cleary, who's transcribing our hearing, please  
24 begin by stating your name and the name of the  
25 organization, if any, that you're representing. It'll

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1 also help her out if you would spell your last name for  
2 her. And in that regard, let me just ask for your  
3 indulgence and forgiveness if I mispronounce your name.  
4 I'll do my best as I read them off the cards.

5 Please don't provide any personal information  
6 like your home address or your telephone number. Again,  
7 your comments are being recorded verbatim. They'll be  
8 used to develop a transcript and permanent record of this  
9 meeting and will be published in the final EIS. Your name  
10 will be included along with your comments and will be in  
11 the final EIS. But of course your personal home address  
12 and phone number will not be published in the EIS.

13 Of course you don't have to speak for the full  
14 three minutes. And to help you keep track of the time,  
15 Allison will show you a yellow card when you have about 30  
16 seconds left. Real high tech, but they work. And a red  
17 card when your time is up. So when you see the red card,  
18 please go ahead and conclude your remarks so I can move on  
19 to the next speak. And I have a lot of folks signed up to  
20 speak. So if you'd please adhere to Allison's directions,  
21 I think we can get everybody in tonight.

22 You don't need to yield any remaining time to  
23 anybody else. I'll just move on to the next speaker when  
24 you're finished. Also it just takes too much time to set  
25 up any individual electronic presentations, but those can

1 certainly be submitted as written comments later if you'd  
2 like to do that.

3 Now tonight's hearing is set to end at about 8:00  
4 p.m. I don't think this will happen, but if everyone who  
5 signed up to speak has had a chance to do so before that  
6 time, I'll ask if any speaker would like another three  
7 minutes to add to their remarks. And if you want to do  
8 that, if time allows, just let me know at that time and  
9 I'll put another three minutes back on the clock for you.

10 Let me just say that if we do finish the speakers  
11 before 8:00 and based on the number that signed up, I  
12 don't think we will, but if we do, Ms. Cleary and I will  
13 remain over here at the table. And if you decide to make  
14 a statement, just come on up. I'll turn the machine back  
15 on and we'll record your statement verbatim for the record  
16 while we're in recess.

17 If you want to add something to your oral  
18 comments after the hearing or if you'd rather not speak  
19 here tonight, you can submit written comments at any time  
20 up to and including March the 14th, 2012. There's no page  
21 limit on written comments, and the Air Force gives equal  
22 weight to oral and written comments. Both become part of  
23 the official record and are included in the final EIS.

24 Now just a few reminders before we get started  
25 with our speakers. First, please limit your comments to



1 the draft EIS that is the purpose of this public comment  
2 period. Second, if you agree with the previous speaker on  
3 something, you can certainly say that, but you don't need  
4 to use up your time repeating it since it's already in the  
5 record.

6 Finally, as I mentioned earlier, this isn't a Q&A  
7 session. It's an opportunity for you to put on the record  
8 your views and your concerns about the proposal that you  
9 want the decision makers to consider. Questions that you  
10 pose during your comments will become part of the record  
11 and will be considered. After we're done with the formal  
12 part of this, Air Force reps will, I think, still be  
13 available by those boards in the back to continue  
14 discussing things with you.

15 And with that, let's get on to our speakers.  
16 First, Mr. Ryan Owens from Governor Brewer's office. Mr.  
17 Owens.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

3019 LU

18 RYAN OWENS: Thank you. My name is Ryan Owens,  
19 O-w-e-n-s, and I am the governor's policy advisor for  
20 military affairs.

21 Good evening. On behalf of Governor Jan Brewer  
22 and all the citizens of this great state, welcome to  
23 Arizona. Thank you for allowing me to open these public  
24 comment hearings to discuss Luke Air Force Base, the  
25

1 preferred alternative training base for the F-35A,  
2 Lightning II. The F-35 basing decision process has been  
3 long and comprehensive. And a decision of this magnitude,  
4 no doubt, deserves that kind of scrutiny. It should be a  
5 process that ensures every aspect gets analyzed, every  
6 question answered, so that the final decision is the  
7 correct one. The Department of Defense and the Air Force  
8 deserve high praise and appreciation for the work they've  
9 done during this process, and I thank them for that.  
10 Thank you.

11 The draft environmental impact statement's filled  
12 with charts, matrixes and graphs, and the message it  
13 delivers is clear. Luke Air Force Base is far and away  
14 the best base to house the F-35. Luke best fulfills the  
15 expected mission and responsibilities of an F-35 training  
16 base taking into consideration environmental, operational,  
17 technical and other factors. The evidence is indisputable  
18 especially when comparing costs for construction, noise  
19 contours and effects, along with airspace and range  
20 capacity. But this committee and the Air Force know all  
21 these numbers and statistics already. They are readily  
22 available in the statement and speak for themselves.

GE-3

23 What I'm here to tell you today, and what the  
24 people who speak after me are here to tell you today, is  
25 that Arizona wants the F-35 here at Luke. We are a very

GE-3

1 proud state.

2 Tomorrow, February 14th, Arizona celebrates its  
3 centennial anniversary. Much has changed in the 100 years  
4 since we've been a state, including the 1941 construction  
5 of Luke Airfield named after the Lieutenant Frank Luke,  
6 Jr., a Phoenix native who was a World War I triple ace and  
7 the first aviator to be award the Medal of Honor. For 71  
8 years, Luke has been a vital asset to our economy. But  
9 most importantly, Luke has provided Arizona a sense of  
10 pride knowing that some of the men and women who protect  
11 our freedom and the best fighter pilots in the world are  
12 trained in our state.

13 We're also proud of their spouses who join our  
14 community in groups and organizations. We're proud of  
15 their children who attend our public school. We take  
16 pride in knowing that countless veterans from Luke retire  
17 in Arizona. And we welcome every single one of them.

18 And now as we celebrate our centennial year, we  
19 look to the future. And that future includes the F-35 at  
20 Luke Air Force Base. By selecting Luke Air Force Base for  
21 the bed down of the F-35, the Air Force is placing its  
22 servicemen and women and this mission in the arms of a  
23 caring, appreciative and welcoming state, a state  
24 committed to protecting those airmen, their families, and  
25 their mission as they continue to defend this great

1 country.

2 I thank you for this time and this process.

3 COL. GREGORY: Thank you for your comments.

4 Mayor Scruggs.

5 MAYOR ELAINE SCRUGGS: Thank you. Good evening.

3020 LU

6 I'm Elaine Scruggs, S-c-r-u-g-g-s, mayor of the City of  
7 Glendale which is the proud home of Luke Air Force Base.

8 One of the top priorities established by the  
9 Glendale City Council year after year is our commitment to  
10 be part of creating, partnering, and assisting in efforts  
11 designed to protect Luke Air Force Base's ability to  
12 perform its mission. Since annexing the base into our  
13 city in 1995, Glendale has worked with other cities, the  
14 county government, state officials, and our congressional  
15 delegation in developing initiatives and state laws to  
16 protect and sustain Luke's vital training mission.

17 Over the last decade, we have worked in  
18 partnership at all levels of government to lay the ground  
19 work to strategically position the base for the  
20 opportunity that lies ahead with the F-35 mission. That  
21 partnership has been integral to the Arizona state  
22 legislature's passage of nine separate statutes ensuring  
23 that managed growth and responsible land use planning  
24 occurs near Luke Air Force Base and all of the state's  
25 military airports. As a result of these innovative

1 statutes, Arizona is now considered a national model in  
2 managing growth and compatible land uses in the vicinities  
3 of military airports.

4 Only Arizona has gone to the point of adopting  
5 state laws specifically designed to prevent future  
6 encroachment around its military bases, thus providing  
7 installations such as Luke Air Force Base the ability to  
8 take on new missions like the F-35.

9 These landmark actions ensure that properties are  
10 managed within the air installation compatible use zone to  
11 meet the needs of both Luke Air Force Base and the local  
12 communities while protecting these parcels from  
13 incompatible development. They underscore the commitment  
14 of the community surrounding Luke to the long-term  
15 viability of the base and its current and future missions.  
16 Additionally, the base's community initiatives team works  
17 closely with state and local governments to identify  
18 potential issues and develop mutually beneficial solutions  
19 before those issues become problematic for either the  
20 community or the base.

21 For the purpose of this meeting tonight, I would  
22 like to highlight two specific actions undertaken by the  
23 cities of Glendale and Goodyear to protect Luke's vital  
24 mission. However, I will be submitting a formal letter  
25 for the record which will highlight additional actions and

1 laws passed in support of the military, the state's  
2 military. I think I can't tell you those two things.

3 But real quickly, they have to do with the City  
4 of Glendale annexing 6,549 acres of land adjacent to Luke  
5 Air Force Base with full support of the property owners  
6 who asked that this be done. And these annexations have  
7 protected nearly 63 percent of Glendale's municipal  
8 planning area in the 65 DB noise contours.

9 In 2003, the City of Goodyear obligated \$3.5  
10 million, which at that time accounted for 10 percent of  
11 their annual operating and maintenance budget, to buy land  
12 that by zoning could have been developed by private  
13 interests and thereby encroach upon the mission of Luke  
14 Air Force Base.

15 I'll skip the rest of this and I'll just say, in  
16 closing, you will learn throughout your meeting this week  
17 that Luke is perfectly positioned to receive the F-35  
18 training mission and continue its decades-long role as the  
19 Air Force's premier training base for our nation's fighter  
20 pilots.

GE-3

21 COL. GREGORY: Mayor Scruggs, I'm sorry you had  
22 to hustle up there, but I appreciate you following the  
23 directions of the cards. Mayor Schoaf. The floor is  
24 yours.

3021 LU

25 MAYOR THOMAS SCHOAF: Thank you. Once again, I

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1 want to welcome you. My name is Tom Schoaf. It's  
 2 S-c-h-o-a-f. I'm the mayor of the city of Litchfield  
 3 Park. That's for all of you who don't know me and when I  
 4 welcomed you the first time. Thanks again for coming to  
 5 our city. Thank you to Mayor Scruggs. And I also want to  
 6 thank each and every one of the elected officials that's  
 7 here from the state, from the county, and from the other  
 8 cities and municipalities.

9 It has been truly a long effort by all of the  
 10 cities and towns, by the county, by the state government  
 11 to show our support for Luke, to take actions at each  
 12 level that's necessary to protect the mission at Luke.  
 13 And that's why we have the opportunity to be here tonight  
 14 and to talk about being the preferred alternative for the  
 15 F-35 training mission. So thank you to everyone who is  
 16 here and has worked so hard and for so long to protect the  
 17 mission of Luke.

18 Litchfield Park supports the mission at Luke as  
 19 it exists today and will support the mission at Luke as  
 20 it's going to grow in the future with the F-35.  
 21 Litchfield Park has had a long history that it's shared  
 22 with Luke Air Force Base. I came here in 1980, which is a  
 23 fairly -- a new thing. It's not 100 years ago. It's not  
 24 when Paul Litchfield first came here, and it's not when  
 25 Luke Air Force first came here.

GE-3

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1 But in 1980, we were still much the same as we  
 2 were originally when Paul Litchfield came and originally  
 3 when Luke Air Force Base was established in 1940. Luke  
 4 Air Force Base and Litchfield Park were neighboring  
 5 outposts, and there was very little between us and our  
 6 neighboring cities other than farm land and in some cases  
 7 scrub brush. So we have shared history with Luke.

8 We supported the state legislation which protects  
 9 Luke today. We want to again thank the state legislature  
 10 for the decisive actions that they took. Litchfield Park  
 11 supports managed growth. Managed growth is what has  
 12 allowed Luke Air Force Base's mission to be protected.  
 13 And yet it has allowed the cities and towns and the local  
 14 landowners to sell their land, to develop their land, and  
 15 to see economic opportunities here expand for our  
 16 residents even though -- even though that has protected  
 17 the mission of Luke Air Force Base. So managed growth and  
 18 the concept of managed growth is very rewarding.

19 Litchfield Park works closely with Luke community  
 20 initiatives team. The Luke community initiatives team is  
 21 something that was a forward-thinking concept on the part  
 22 of Luke Air Force Base and the community leaders and has  
 23 allowed us as communities to participate in the decision  
 24 making processes that are necessary to protect the mission  
 25 at Luke. Litchfield Park will ensure -- will work to

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1 ensure the adequate steps are taken if there is any  
2 necessity for them if there is a noise issue within what  
3 we find as we go forward.

4 In closing, I want to say that the training  
5 mission fits Luke Air Force Base. The training mission  
6 will mean few, if any, changes for our community. The  
7 training mission will bring jobs to our community. And to  
8 coin a phrase or borrow a phrase from Mayor Meck in  
9 Buckeye, the West Valley is open for business and we're  
10 open for those jobs. The training mission will help  
11 stabilize our economy.

GE-3

12 For all of these reasons, we want to join with  
13 the city of Glendale and the other cities and towns on the  
14 west side and support Luke Air Force Base, support the  
15 adding or the changing of its mission to training F-35  
16 fighter pilots. Thank you for coming tonight. And thank  
17 you for the Air Force for considering Luke.

18 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Next, we have Mayor  
19 Mike Levault of Youngtown.

3022 LU

20 MAYOR MICHAEL LEVAULT: Wow, what an awesome  
21 turnout tonight. As an elected official, I was admonished  
22 to be mercifully brief. So I promise I will.

23 I can't imagine a base better suited or better  
24 located than Luke to be the home for the F-35. When you  
25 look at its proximity to the Phoenix megaplex which

GE-3

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1 includes all the great things like the transportation  
2 system that we've worked so hard to build and all of the  
3 access to the amenities for the servicemen and women who  
4 work at the base and then when you couple that with the  
5 BMG bombing range which is really a world treasure,  
6 something that can't be replicated anywhere else in the  
7 world, I just have to stand up here and give my  
8 full-throated support to Luke and its mission to land the  
9 F-35 schoolhouse.

GE-3  
cont'd

10 I know there's overwhelming support for that in  
11 my community, including the unanimous support of my  
12 council. And I thank everyone for being here tonight.  
13 And I guess I could finish up by saying, What's not to  
14 like?

15 Thank you.

16 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Next Representative  
17 Steve Montenegro representing District 12, District 12.  
18 The floor is yours.

3023 LU

19 REP. STEVE MONTENEGRO: Good evening, everyone.  
20 And this evening I am very honored to stand up here and  
21 just briefly show our support.

22 Let me just first say that on behalf of myself,  
23 my name is Steve Montenegro, as mentioned, State  
24 Representative, District 12; also Jerry Weiers, he is  
25 here. He is a state representative here in Arizona,

GE-3

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1 District 12 for Luke Air Force Base; and John Nelson,  
2 Senator, together we are in 100 percent agreement in  
3 support that we will continue to fight and do whatever is  
4 possible and necessary to help Luke, not only to help but  
5 to make sure that it is strong and it continues to be that  
6 bedrock in this community.

GE-3  
cont'd

7 Let me tell you that the support, the elected  
8 support, from around this area, the West Valley, and the  
9 community is second to none. The amount of support that  
10 we as legislators receive from the community on behalf of  
11 Luke as to how vital it is is second to none. I reiterate  
12 that. And so I wanted -- we want to make sure that the  
13 community knows and those that are decision makers that  
14 they understand that we want to make sure that Luke Air  
15 Force stays strong, whatever is necessary and within the  
16 land uses, and that Luke Air Force continues, that we do  
17 our part so that they will continue to be always able as  
18 their motto or as their words, "Able, Willing, and Ready"  
19 to send support staff all over the world.

20 And with that, as I said, on behalf of the three  
21 legislators, we want to show our uncompromising support  
22 for Luke and the future here in the West Valley.

23 Thank you.

24 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Ms. Maria Baier,  
25 Arizona State Land Commissioner. Ms. Baier. The floor is

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1 yours.

3024 LU

2 MS. MARIA BAIER: Good evening. For the record,  
3 my name is Marie Baier. I serve as the Arizona State Land  
4 Commissioner. And as such I am the landlord to 9.3  
5 million acres across the state of Arizona, including lands  
6 adjacent to and near Luke Air Force Base, Aux-1, the  
7 Goldwater range and many training routes as well as most  
8 of the other military installations across the state of  
9 Arizona. In total, we manage about 13 percent of the  
10 surface area of the state of Arizona. So we're a  
11 significant player in land use issues across the state and  
12 certainly in this vicinity.

13 And I just wanted to say that we support the  
14 selection of Luke as the site for the F-35 and vow to be a  
15 good neighbor and a supportive neighbor in working with  
16 the base in the various jurisdictions to ensure that state  
17 trust lands are used for projects that would be compatible  
18 with the proposed new mission. So we are big supporters  
19 of the F-35 coming here and look forward to working with  
20 all of you to that end.

GE-3

GE-3

21 Thank you very much.

22 COL. GREGORY: Ms. Lisa Atkins, chair of the  
23 Governor's Military Affairs Commission. Ms. Atkins. Mind  
24 the cords.

3025 LU

25 MS. LISA ATKINS: Good evening, for the record,

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1 my name is Lisa Atkins, A-t, as in Tom, k-i-n-s. And I am  
2 the co-chair of the governor's military affairs commission  
3 which was created in statute and in executive order both  
4 as a group of interests that balances private property  
5 rights with the installation and mission needs of all the  
6 military installations across the state. And I'm very  
7 pleased to be here tonight. And we welcome you to  
8 Litchfield Park.

9 Almost two years ago today, actually it was on  
10 February 19th, 2010, I was one of two people, two  
11 civilians, invited by the AETC commander to fly to Eglin  
12 Air Force Base to not only be able to see the F-35 but to  
13 actually hear it in operation in takeoff and landing. I  
14 did so. I was right close to the runway. And in a  
15 pattern that included an F-16, an F 18, and an F-35, there  
16 was a barely perceptible difference in the noise. And I  
17 wanted to be sure and not only share that with many of you  
18 with whom I've worked over the years on all sorts of  
19 military issues but certainly in support of Luke Air Force  
20 Base, but, also for the record, that there was a barely  
21 noticeable difference in the noise.

22 Also I'd like to thank Mayor Scruggs and Mayor  
23 Schoaf for the comments that they made about the  
24 compatibility standards that are in state statutes.  
25 Arizona leads the nation in its efforts to establish

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NO-9

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1 compatibility standards between private property rights  
2 and allowing all of our installations in Arizona to  
3 fulfill their missions. We have worked very carefully to  
4 allow those installations to not only protect their  
5 missions but to enhance the missions that they may have in  
6 the future.

7 And I'd like to remind everyone one more time  
8 that the lines in the state statutes are not fabricated.  
9 They were not based off of a model that was run. But they  
10 are in fact actual noise levels that the community  
11 accepted based on the F-15 and that those -- that noise,  
12 those lines in our state statutes will certainly  
13 accommodate all but two very small sections of the lines  
14 that you all have seen on the maps for the F-35.

NO-9

15 Again, thank you very much for including  
16 Litchfield Park and the three other sites in Arizona in  
17 your meetings. And thank you all for taking the time to  
18 attend tonight. It's a great statement on behalf of the  
19 community that you're all here.

20 Thank you.

21 COL. GREGORY: Mr. John Regni of the Arizona  
22 Commerce Authority.

3026 LU

23 MR. JOHN REGNI: Lieutenant General John F.  
24 Regni, R-e-g-n-i, retired. Good evening, everyone. I'd  
25 first like to thank Mr. Martin and his team for the

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1 comprehensive study that they built in the EIS. It's a  
 2 very lengthy document. I would like to make three  
 3 comments on noise to try to clarify some of the points in  
 4 the EIS, and I would have hoped that some of these would  
 5 have been in the executive summary which is what the  
 6 majority of the people will read.

7 The first, and you saw the baseline of 168 F-16s,  
 8 and at that baseline there was a -- of present flying  
 9 groups, there was over 1,600 homes that are affected by  
 10 the noise decibel levels above 65. There was a time not  
 11 in our recent past that Luke had 210 F-16s. And the 168  
 12 number was something that was used for the black. Well,  
 13 in all likelihood, the noise generated by 210 F-16s was  
 14 louder than the 168 baseline, and it would be a likely  
 15 assumption that more than 1,600 homes would be affected by  
 16 noise at that level of F-16s assigned to Luke.

NO-9

17 Second, the preferred alternative that the Air  
 18 Force is looking at with 72 F-35s and 26 F-16s, the 98  
 19 aircraft, it's important that we foot stomp the point that  
 20 Mr. Martin made, that at that level of operation that less  
 21 homes would be affected by the F-35 and F-16 combination  
 22 than are affected by the baseline. He had minus or 600  
 23 less.

24 The third point is of the chart he put up on the  
 25 contour lines. Mr. Martin pointed out the blue line, and

NO-10

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1 what that meant and the others from level 1 through level  
 2 6 depending upon the size of aircraft assigned. One line  
 3 that was not pointed out was the black line. And that's  
 4 the one in the outside of all of that, and that's the line  
 5 that Lisa was referring to and the line that the state has  
 6 used, that Mayor Scruggs talked about all the statutes to  
 7 make sure of the compatible use and any construction  
 8 within that line. That's the line that I had to sign my  
 9 name by when I bought my house here in 2003. That's the  
 10 line that the state and county used to ensure compatible  
 11 use.

NO-10  
cont'd

12 Well, the preferred alternative noise line, 100  
 13 percent of that noise line is inside that black line that  
 14 the state has used since the 1980s. And when you go all  
 15 the way to 144 aircraft at L6, over 99 percent of the  
 16 contour lines are within the state line. There's only two  
 17 little slivers that are affected by that.

18 So the conclusion is the state lines are still  
 19 good. The noise will be well inside the state lines that  
 20 we've all had to sign up to and live by. And less people,  
 21 not more, will be affected by the noise of that preferred  
 22 alternative squadron and wing size that the Air Force has  
 23 set for Luke Air Force Base.

24 Thank you very much for your time this evening.

25 COL. GREGORY: Mr. Carl Havlicek. I hope I got

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1 that right.

2 MR. CARL HAVLICEK: You got it right. Havlicek,

3 H-a-v-l-i-c-e-k, and it's pronounced as though there's an

4 H after that C. Thank you. My name is Carl Havlicek.

5 I'm a resident of Pebble Creek in Goodyear. We've resided

6 there for the last 12 years as of next month. And we've

7 experienced very little noise level discomfort from the

8 F-16. And I obviously don't want to reiterate the

9 previous speaker, but that's what I was going to cover as

10 well is the differential noise level between the 16 and

11 the F-35.

12 I am a employee at the golf course at Falcon

13 Dunes. I work inside. The noise level of the F-16

14 doesn't bother any conversations I have in the building.

15 When I make announcements to tee time, most everybody that

16 has relatively decent hearing has no reason to not go up

17 to the assigned tee time when I call it when the F-16s are

18 right overhead. So noise level doesn't really have an

19 impact on normal conversations even when I'm playing golf

20 there and F-16s are right above you. So as a resident of

21 Pebble Creek as well, I strongly support the, and my wife

22 and I, the F-35 even if there was a increase in noise

23 level. And any time that's remaining on my time, I'd like

24 to give to anybody else.

25 Thank you very much.

1 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Mr. John Chlopek.

2 MR. JOHN CHLOPEK: Chlopek.

3 COL. GREGORY: I'm sorry.

4 MR. JOHN CHLOPEK: That's okay, sir.

5 COL. GREGORY: The floor is yours.

6 MR. JOHN CHLOPEK: Thank you. Good evening. I'd

7 like to preface my comments by saying that I totally

8 support the mission of Luke Air Force Base and training

9 the world's finest fighter pilots. Being a Chicago

10 resident and living near O'Hare International Airport for

11 30 some years, I find the noise since 2008 in Surprise,

12 Arizona, quite acceptable.

13 I fear if we don't get the F-35A Lightning,

14 Luke's mission would change and succumb to the Department

15 of Defense base closure commission. And in my lifetime,

16 I've gone through this three times in Illinois with

17 Glenview Naval Air Station; Fort Sheridan, Illinois, and

18 the Air National Guard base where my son was stationed in

19 O'Hare International Airport. And I do not want to see

20 that happen here at Luke and in the West Valley. I think

21 the West Valley needs Luke, and we need Luke also. And I

22 totally support the F-35 coming to the West Valley.

23 Thank you.

24 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Mr. Tom Hillmer. Mr.

25 Hillmer. The floor is yours.

Page 39  
3029 LU

1 MR. TOM HILLMER: My name's Tom Hillmer,  
2 H-i-l-l-m-e-r. My name is Tom Hillmer, and I'm an  
3 environmental consultant. I work in the nuclear industry,  
4 and I have reviewed the environmental impact statement.  
5 It is very complete. It's very adequate. I paid special  
6 attention to the areas of waste management, wetland  
7 management, resource recovery and use, air quality and  
8 wildlife habitat. I found the review to be adequate and  
9 that it showed little impact to the local environment.

GE-8

10 The area of concern for most of us is, of course,  
11 noise pollution. After reviewing the data, I feel that  
12 the F-35 mission should go forward at the L3 or L4  
13 scenario, that those would be the best choice financially  
14 and environmentally for our community. At those scenario  
15 levels, only four additional residential acres are  
16 impacted at the 65 to 69 decibel level.

GE-3

17 I would also like to commend Luke Air Force Base  
18 for their current environmental assessment concerning  
19 installation of solar arrays to offset their power usage.

20 Thank you.

21 COL. GREGORY: Next I'll call on Congressman  
22 Trent Franks.

3030 LU

23 REP. TRENT FRANKS: Thank you very much. Well,  
24 it is just such a precious honor for me to be here with  
25 all of you tonight. I could say a lot of things that many

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1 people have already said, but I just want you to know that  
2 Luke Air Force Base continues to be one of the highest  
3 priorities in my office of anything else that we deal with  
4 because the first and most important responsibility to the  
5 federal government is to make sure that we protect the  
6 national security of the greatest nation in the history of  
7 world.

8 And I could say a little shout out to all of the  
9 elected leaders here that have indeed cooperated with us  
10 in every way they could. But let me just say something to  
11 you from my heart. I truly believe that one of the main  
12 reasons that Luke has been such a dynamic base and has  
13 gained the favor of the Air Force the way it has in this  
14 particular challenge is because it has had absolutely  
15 unprecedented, unprecedented support among the people of  
16 this Valley.

17 Every general I talk to says, You know, the  
18 people surrounding Luke Air Force, they have supported it.  
19 And they -- they're not so worried about a little noise  
20 because, as we say all the time, that's the sound of  
21 freedom roaring over us, overhead. And so I'm also very  
22 gratified as you might imagine that the environmental  
23 impact statement has shown that this new training mission  
24 for Luke with the F-35 is going to have nominal impact at  
25 best on the environment here and upon the noise contour

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1 lines of this area.

2 And I just have to say to you it's my opinion  
 3 that because of that -- because of your support and  
 4 because of the commitment of the elected leaders,  
 5 including this one, in all sincerity, and because the  
 6 environmental impact statement has worked the way it has,  
 7 I truly believe that this base is going to become the  
 8 decision of final record and we are going to see the F-35  
 9 roaring through these skies and roaring across the world  
 10 to fight the cause of freedom. So God bless you all.

GE-3

11 Thank you very much.

12 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Next, Ms. Marilyn  
 13 Censioso, Ms. Censioso. All right. Put her aside for  
 14 now.

15 Mr. Peter DePasquale, Mr. Pasquale? All right.  
 16 Bring the whole deck over here. Set that one aside.

17 I'll bet this Chief Master Sergeant's here.  
 18 Chief Master Sergeant, retired, Geno Piccoli.

3031 LU

19 MR. GENO PICCOLI: Chief Master Sergeant,  
 20 retired, Geno Piccoli, P-i-c-c-o-l-i. We are talking  
 21 about a new weapons system. Let me tell you about a  
 22 weapons system that is already here at Luke. The number  
 23 one weapons system in our Department of Defense. It's our  
 24 people, 5900 of them according to the count, who work at  
 25 Luke and who live in our community and, ladies and

1 gentlemen, who provide environmental impact on our  
 2 community.

3 I will tell you that because I volunteer and  
 4 manage the volunteer program out at Luke and know that we  
 5 have many volunteers who work in this community. And  
 6 every year, they put in anywhere from 80 to 100,000 hours  
 7 of volunteer work into this community that equates to  
 8 approximately \$1.6 million every year.

9 We all know the environmental -- or the financial  
 10 impact that the base has. But the people impact is even  
 11 more important. And by God, when the F-35 stays here,  
 12 your people stay here, and we will support the West Valley  
 13 to our fullest extent possible.

GE-3

14 Thank you very much.

15 COL. GREGORY: Thanks, Chief. Mr. Ed Artz, Mr.  
 16 Artz, Rusty Artz, A-r-t-z, just to make sure I'm saying  
 17 that close to correct. All right.

18 Chris Gorsuch, Chris Gorsuch, G-o-r-s-u-c-h. Mr.  
 19 Don Reptoi, Air Force retired, Mr. Reptoi? I have another  
 20 card from Ms. Atkins. But since we already covered  
 21 that... if we have time, I'll give you a reattempt. Mr.  
 22 Charles Barber. Mr. Barber? Mr. Barber? Mr. Thomas  
 23 Hillmer. Mr. Hillmer? Starting to wonder what's going  
 24 on. Mr. Bill Woods.

25 MR. BILL WOODS: Here.

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1 COL. GREGORY: Good. The floor is yours.

3032 LU

2 MR. BILL WOODS: Billy Woods, W-o-o-d-s. I --

3 probably be the only clap I get tonight. I live at the

4 end of the crash zone site just south of the freeway.

5 I've lived there 24 years. The thing I came here for this

6 evening is to get some basic information, not happy talk.

NP-5

7 And so far I've got no information at all. I talked to

8 the environmental people. They told me that the only

9 thing that they were looking for on the environment was

10 that the planes would be over 3,000 feet. That anything

SA-9

11 that came out of the tail pipe of the airplane had nothing

12 to do with us on the ground. I think they forgot about

13 gravity.

14 The other part that I've seen here quite recently

15 as -- I'm not opposed to Luke, but I am opposed to some of

16 the flight paths that they're doing. And one of the main

17 reasons for me being here is this last month they had an

18 exceptionally good flight system out at Luke. They flew

19 directly straight south to the field in Gila Bend. They

20 flew straight back in. Up until this afternoon.

NO-98

21 At 2:07 this afternoon, I got the groupings of

22 three and four planes making a right-hand turn over my

23 house. This created an average of 82 to 90 and two of the

24 planes reached 94 decibel level. The reason I have

25 checked this decibel level is we've been doing this for

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1 some 20 years. We filed a report with the Department of

2 Defense. And I'm sure they have that record some place.

3 And the other part that I tried to get some

4 straight answers on was on the -- how this new flight path

5 of only 65 decibels is going to work. They said, "Well,

6 the computer model worked it out."

NO-98  
cont'd

7 I asked, "Has there been an F-35 here?"

8 "Oh, no, no, no, there's none here. We just fly

9 them over Edwards Air Base" or someplace. And if we had

10 the amount of planes here and the guard that is so

11 important to us for the next 30, 40 years -- well, won't

12 make any difference to me because I ain't going to be here

13 much longer, the problem is the stuff coming out of the

14 tail pipe really concerns me. And the reason it concerns

15 me is I used to grow plants until I lost most of my sight.

16 The -- collect rain water off of my greenhouse

17 roof. And the -- the greenhouse roof water when I used

18 it, it foams like you put a whole jug of soap suds in it.

19 And I'm just really concerned about what's coming out of

20 the tail pipe. And I tried to get somebody to check it,

21 and nobody knows. Nobody's telling. And I'm concerned

22 about the emissions that are coming out of the planes.

SA-9

23 Thank you.

24 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Mr. James McNallen.

25 Mr. McNallen.

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1 MR. JAMES McNALLEN: Here.  
2 COL. GREGORY: All right. The floor is yours. 3033 LU  
3 MR. JAMES McNALLEN: Thank you. My name is James  
4 X. McNallen. I'm a Navy Captain, retired. And I live  
5 over in Pebble Creek in Goodyear. And I have to get my  
6 glasses. Just have a few notes that I made. One is that  
7 looking at the material presented to us, the takeoff and  
8 landing and flight patterns for the F-35 will remain that  
9 of the F-16. So I do not see that that causes a problem. NO-9  
10 There may be some increase in the noise level  
11 within those boundaries, but relatively little difference.  
12 I understand that it's the difference between, if you're  
13 living in a residential area, a loud lawnmower and a  
14 motorcycle. Well, I live in Goodyear, and we have both  
15 lawnmowers and occasionally a motorcycle. And it's not  
16 really a big problem. And I don't -- I think if there is  
17 a big problem, it will be not a big problem. The big  
18 problem -- we'll get used to it.  
19 In general, I support the idea of military bases  
20 being in large or close to large metropolitan areas where  
21 there's a diverse population. First of all, I think that  
22 when you have a military population that mixes in with a  
23 big civilian population, it gives us civilians a better  
24 appreciation for the military, more patriotism, more  
25 understanding of every one of you.

1 Secondly, the military mixing with us gives them  
2 a better appreciation of the civilian points of view of  
3 these things. So I think all of these things are big, big  
4 factors in our support. And I support very strongly the  
5 assignment of the F-35 training facility at Luke Air Force GE-3  
6 Base.  
7 Thank you.  
8 COL. GREGORY: Thank you, sir. Mr. Paul Smiley.  
9 Mr. Smiley.  
10 MR. PAUL SMILEY: My name is Paul Smiley, 3034 LU  
11 S-m-i-l-e-y. I am a two-year resident of Goodyear,  
12 Arizona, retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel. The Chief  
13 and I go back about 25 years, but I'm retired from Luke  
14 Air Force Base about 10 years ago, the squadron commander.  
15 And in my 25-year Air Force career, I spent about three  
16 times at Luke Air Force Base. I'm also a combat veteran  
17 of Desert Storm. And I will tell you from an economic  
18 standpoint, I don't consider about the dollars. There's  
19 an interest in talking about the financial part.  
20 Let me talk to you about a war fighting part.  
21 And that is, you won't find a better proving ground to fly  
22 airplanes and train than the Barry Goldwater range. In  
23 Desert Storm, I worked with F-15 pilots and F-16 pilots  
24 all my life. I'm an AWACS staff. We kind of run the air  
25 battle. And in Desert Storm, we lost no F-16s or U.S.

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1 aircraft in an air-to-air fight. Yeah.

2 If you go Google our adversaries out there, they  
3 are improving their weapons systems every day, every day.  
4 China, I know this because I spent time with the joint  
5 staff as Pacific air war planning strategist. But from an  
6 economic standpoint, what this really boils down to is  
7 risk. And as a 25-year Air Force combat veteran, I lost  
8 some friends in my life flying airplanes. But I can't  
9 tell you when the next war will happened or what it will  
10 happen with, but I will tell you this: Losing is not an  
11 option.

12 So to be perfectly frank with you when I sit in  
13 my backyard in the summertime throwing a few steaks on the  
14 grill, enjoying the nice summer weather -- I'm from  
15 Chicago, too, so I really appreciate this kind of  
16 weather -- and I see that F-16 flying over, you know what  
17 I do? I'll throw another steak on the grill because I  
18 know the American flag that flies in my front yard will be  
19 there tomorrow.

20 Thank you.

21 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Mr. Chris Andres.

3035 LU

22 MR. CHRIS ANDRES: Thank you, Colonel. My name  
23 is Chris Andres. A, as in Arizona, n-d-r-e-s. I'm the  
24 deputy aviation director for planning for the City of  
25 Phoenix Aviation Department, and I'm speaking on behalf of

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1 the City of Phoenix Councilwoman Thelda Williams who sends  
2 her apologies she could not be here tonight and the City  
3 of Phoenix Aviation Department. We're in strong support  
4 of Luke Air Force Base as the preferred site for the F-35A  
5 training program.

GE-3

6 Luke Air Force Base and Phoenix Sky Harbor  
7 International Airport are the two largest users of  
8 airspace in central Arizona. We have an excellent  
9 relationship with the base, and Luke is one of our  
10 strongest partners to address the joint needs of civilian  
11 and military aviation.

12 We support their mission as a critical training  
13 facility for the Air Force and the F-35 program. And the  
14 City of Phoenix is committed to Luke's long-term  
15 viability. As part of this commitment to Luke, Phoenix  
16 has purchased property near the base to protect it from  
17 encroachment so it can continue to serve the needs of our  
18 national defense system.

GE-3

19 Thank you.

20 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Ms. Billie Barbara  
21 Nelson. Ms. Nelson? Mr. Harry Cook, USMC, retired. Oh,  
22 Ms. Nelson.

3036 LU

23 MS. BILLIE BARBARA NELSON: Coming.

24 COL. GREGORY: Sorry about that, ma'am.

25 MS. BILLIE BARBARA NELSON: Nelson, N-e-l-s-o-n.

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1 I'm Barbara Nelson, and actually I'm a native Arizonan,  
2 but I married an Air Force jock in 1957, and he ended up  
3 with 2,000 hours in the F-86, 2,000 hours in the F-100 and  
4 2,000 hours in the 105. And I'm going to tell you, he was  
5 some jock. Now I was with him. He ferried the first 105  
6 to Bittberg, Germany. And we lived over there for five  
7 years.

8 And believe me, if you want to have an airplane  
9 that shakes the house down, it's the thud from a 105. And  
10 that was out here also. And believe me, I can still hear  
11 it. And I've been around all those airports and all those  
12 airplanes. And I just don't believe the F-35 could be  
13 noisier than the thud. I truly don't.

NO-9

14 And I really respect the Air Force. I love it.  
15 And I've been a part of it for most of my life. And I was  
16 so glad that after Vietnam, he got stationed back at Luke  
17 so I could come home to the desert. So it is my  
18 encouragement that we stay with this Air Force jet and  
19 that we applaud the Air Force for keeping us flying and  
20 keeping us safe.

21 Thank you.

22 COL. GREGORY: Thank you, ma'am. Mr. Cook.

23 MR. HARRY COOK: Harry Cook, Staff Sergeant  
24 United States Marine Corps, retired. I want the F-35. My  
25 combat experience was the Korean war, and I took part in

3037 LU

GE-3

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1 what I've always considered the most epic battle the  
2 Marine Corps has ever been in, a place called the Chosin  
3 reservoir. That's when the Chinese came into the Korean  
4 war, one Marine division surrounded by seven divisions of  
5 Chinese 78 miles from the sea. We had to turn around and  
6 fight our way back to the water so the Navy could pick us  
7 up.

8 On two occasions, in my part of the tour, down  
9 the road, we were really surrounded and going to get  
10 annihilated, but air came up, Navy or Marines -- we never  
11 knew who the hell it was, but it was ours -- and got us  
12 out of there.

13 And this plane is going to be part of the Marine  
14 air, and I think we need it. And I have a lot of  
15 experience with noisy airplanes. I was on an aircraft  
16 carrier as a young marine, and we were the first ship in  
17 the Navy, the first carrier in the world to have an  
18 operational jet squadron aboard.

19 And then when I came back from Korea, I was a  
20 drill instructor at San Diego. And they had to lengthen  
21 the runway at Lindbergh Field to accommodate jet aircraft.  
22 And you've never had anymore fun trying to drill recruits  
23 when one of those 747 -- well, it wasn't a 47 then. It  
24 was a 707 or something is roaring down that runway and  
25 you're trying to tell those people to stop.

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1 And so I've got a little experience being around  
 2 noisy aircraft. And I live in Sun City. We don't get a  
 3 hell of a lot of noise from Luke, but we get our share.  
 4 And I say let's get the 35 here and train these guys  
 5 because, as the one gentleman said, we don't know when the  
 6 next war is going to happen, but I've been here 85 years  
 7 and we've been having enough of them. And we'll probably  
 8 have another one.

GE-3

9 COL. GREGORY: I hope you'll indulge me in giving  
 10 Sergeant Cook a round of applause for his service in the  
 11 valley of the Chosin.

12 Ms. Judy Blackburn, Ms. Blackburn. Here we go.  
 13 The floor is yours.

3038 LU

14 MS. JUDY BLACKBURN: It's Judy Blackburn,  
 15 B-l-a-c-k-b-u-r-n. I just want to say that like all of  
 16 you, I think, are all pretty much for the F-35 being here,  
 17 and I know I've lived in Surprise for 12 years now. When  
 18 the F-16s were here, I mean, they were a little noisy.  
 19 But, geez, I mean, I get a chill down my whole spine when  
 20 I hear those planes flying over. And it only takes a  
 21 second, and they're gone out of sight, so you don't hear  
 22 it but just for a second anyway.

GE-3

23 I think our freedom is a lot more important. I  
 24 think our safety and our -- just our liberty in having  
 25 those planes here to help train these guys. We have the

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1 best pilots in the world right in our own backyard. I  
 2 just feel so much more secure. I don't know about you,  
 3 but I think our liberty and freedom and our safety is a  
 4 lot more important.

5 Thank you.

6 COL. GREGORY: Mr. Jim Charters. Mr. Charters.  
 7 The floor is yours.

3039 LU

8 MR. JIM CHARTERS: I'm Jim Charters,  
 9 C-h-a-r-t-e-r-s. Thank you. I'm an Air Force fledgling.  
 10 Army people have brats. We have fledglings. I was raised  
 11 on Williams Air Force Base. And you all know, if you're  
 12 military Air Force, that they put test flights right next  
 13 to housing areas. It's a good addition, I think.

14 And I was raised as well on Hahn Air Base in  
 15 Germany, and I can tell you that you get to a point where  
 16 you know how to handle it. The teacher is writing  
 17 something on the board. She stops a moment. It goes by,  
 18 and she picks it right up where she was at. I also can  
 19 tell you that all the F-16s that come in on a particular  
 20 vector go right over my house. And I enjoy it.

GE-3

21 Thank you. Keep it up.

22 COL. GREGORY: Mr. Eric Gorsegner of the Sonoran  
 23 Institute.

3040 LU

24 MR. ERIC GORSEGNER: Good evening. My name is  
 25 Eric Gorsegner. I'm the associate director with the

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1 Phoenix office of the Sonoran Institute. The name is  
2 G-o-r-s-e-g-n-e-r.

3 Two years ago, we submitted a letter in support  
4 of Luke, Luke Air -- in support of, I'm sorry, the F-35.  
5 And I just want to hit some high points from that letter  
6 because our views haven't changed. It was a letter of  
7 support. And I think our support is stronger now than  
8 it's ever been, and I want to tell you why.

GE-3

9 As far as the Sonoran Institute goes though for  
10 nearly the two decades we've been working collaboratively  
11 with communities, developers, conservationists, and  
12 stakeholders throughout the Intermountain West. Simply  
13 stated, our mission is one of promoting sustainability and  
14 smart growth principles both in the natural and the built  
15 environments.

16 Today, we're working throughout the Intermountain  
17 West on issues relating to urban design, land  
18 conservation, renewable energy and wise use of water  
19 resources. Here in Arizona, in western Maricopa County,  
20 we've been engaged for several years on a landscape level  
21 conservation plan of relatively continuous BLM lands and  
22 maintaining the viable habitat blocks and the wilderness  
23 quarters between them.

24 A key fact that I think is sometimes lost in the  
25 discussion of environment sustainability is the parallel

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1 need for economic stability and sustainability. And  
2 there's a growing body of evidence that demonstrates that  
3 economic problems often become environmental problems in  
4 very short order.

5 For 71 years, Luke Air Force Base has been a  
6 foundational component of the West Valley's economy with  
7 quantifiable multipliers, economic multipliers that extend  
8 well beyond the region.

9 As the F-16 fighters are replaced by the F-35s,  
10 it is sensible to locate the F-35s in a place where the  
11 environmental adaptations have already occurred and  
12 additional degradation is less likely. While sensitive  
13 lands and habitats exist beneath the military training  
14 grounds used for the F-16, we believe there is substantial  
15 compatibility between Luke's continuing mission as a host  
16 for the F-35 and our mission as stewards of open space and  
17 protection of wildlife. So we support the F-35, and we  
18 believe Luke and the Goldwater range are in the ideal  
19 home.

GE-3

20 And after hearing comments on noise, anecdotally  
21 let me just say that I live two blocks from Papago Park.  
22 I hear helicopters all the time. Even my cocker spaniel  
23 doesn't flinch anymore. In fact, he thinks it's time to  
24 go out and play.

25 So thank you for your attention.

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1 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Ms. Lisa LaBarre. I  
2 hope I got that right.

3041 LU

3 MS. LISE LaBARRE: Hi, I'm Lise A. LaBarre,  
4 L-a-B-a-r-r-e. I'm a long-time homeowner close to Luke  
5 Air Force Base, and I'm probably in that area which has  
6 been described as the area which is going to be impacted  
7 by higher noise levels. And I forget the specific numbers  
8 right now.

9 But in short, I bought my property in December of  
10 '79. At that time, land was being sold at five acres  
11 minimum. Shortly thereafter, apparently without  
12 consultation with Luke Air Force Base -- I really can't  
13 say -- but ordinances were changed so that properties  
14 could be divided in one-acre parcels. As Mayor Scruggs  
15 pointed out, recently nine statutes have been passed in  
16 order to protect Luke Air Force Base. And, forgive me.  
17 Let me slow down if you are taking this down.

GE-13

18 These nine statutes are well intended and  
19 probably well written. Unfortunately, they were written  
20 approximately 60 years too late. Some of us have been out  
21 there for 30, 40 years and even 50 years. Now this time  
22 we were told that we could no longer divide our property.  
23 We can no longer develop our property. We could no longer  
24 build new or sell to -- with the intent of residential  
25 development. And everything basically was to be approved

1 by Luke Air Force Base. This is not the condition under  
2 which we bought our property 30, 40 years ago. The rules  
3 are being changed in mid course with no compensation of  
4 any type.

GE-13  
cont'd

5 In addition to that, I have long heard the myth  
6 that Luke Air Force Base provides \$2.3 billion in annual  
7 income to Luke Air Force Base. You'll find that figure  
8 cited many times in the Arizona Republic. I happen to  
9 believe that figure based on the fact that approximately  
10 120 civilian jobs are provided by Luke Air Force Base.  
11 The rest of the jobs, which are approximately 6,000  
12 military jobs, are money which is -- the federal  
13 government, i.e., we would be spending somewhere. Whether  
14 it's in this state or another doesn't really make much  
15 difference. Most of that money basically is military pay.  
16 Those people who are stationed here whose families are not  
17 here send their money back home, and that's not generally  
18 part of the economy.

SO-16

19 I know that we have four industrial companies or  
20 defense employers installations here: Raytheon Missile,  
21 Honeywell, General Dynamics and Boeing. Okay. One  
22 contract with either one -- with any one of these  
23 companies for approximately one billion dollars a year, if  
24 that, because I don't even know that the net income to the  
25 state is even one billion from Luke Air Force Base. I'm

1 not including all the other military installations.

2 Okay. One contract with one of these military  
3 contractors would equal what we're getting from Luke Air  
4 Force Base without the pollution, without the noise, and  
5 without the loss in property value which has been -- which  
6 is unfortunately befalling all of the state by some 12 to  
7 20,000 acres being basically put into non-production in  
8 order to protect Luke Air Force Base.

**SO-16**  
cont'd

9 Thank you.

10 COL. GREGORY: Thank you, ma'am. Mr. Bill  
11 Walschlaeger of West Valley Golf Course. Mr.  
12 Walschlaeger. Ms. Margaret Blackmon. Ms. Blackmon. Mr.  
13 Ron Douglas. Mr. Douglas. Mr. Scott Roberts. Mr.  
14 Roberts. There we go.

**3042 LU**

15 MR. SCOTT ROBERTS: My name is Scott Roberts,  
16 R-o-b-e-r-t-s. These statements are made about the facts  
17 of the environmental impact study, not against the F-35.  
18 Pueblo Mirage, which I am the owner of, is an active adult  
19 community with nearly 3,000 residents. Currently our  
20 property is outside of the 65 DB rating based off of the  
21 F-16's flight pattern.

**LU-6**

22 Based on figure 12, page 43, of the EIS, land use  
23 noise contours, scenario 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 put us inside  
24 the 65 DB rating contours. The rating contours to the  
25 north are actually substantially increased while the

1 rating of the 65 DB rating to the south is actually  
2 decreased. So it's obvious that the F-35 is going to make  
3 a dramatic impact on all the area to the north.

4 We currently have 3,000 residents inside of our  
5 community that are living outside of the 65 DB rating.  
6 The F-35 is going to put all of those residents inside  
7 this 65 DB rating. We heard earlier today that the  
8 federal government considers any area within the 65 DB  
9 rating not compatible for land or residential use. This  
10 creates our concern.

**LU-6**  
cont'd

11 We have very many residents in our community that  
12 support F-35, a lot of you, of course, support F-35. We  
13 are just concerned about the actual facts of the  
14 environmental impact study saying that pretty much under  
15 every scenario, our property will be impacted at the 65 DB  
16 rating which it currently isn't impacted.

17 Thank you.

18 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Mr. Woody Thomas. Mr.  
19 Thomas. Woody Thomas. Mr. Barry Wong, former Arizona  
20 legislator.

**3043 LU**

21 MR. BARRY WONG: Thank you, sir.

22 COL. GREGORY: The floor is yours.

23 MR. BARRY WONG: Thank you for the opportunity to  
24 speak for the record.

25 My name's Barry Wong. That's B, as in boy,

1 a-r-r-y. Last name, W-o-n-g. I'm honored to have been a  
 2 legislator in Arizona from '93 to 2000, and I'm also a  
 3 native Arizonan, proud to be an Arizonan. I'm proud to be  
 4 supporting the mission of the F-35A to be sited at Luke  
 5 Air Force Base, and I rise to and speak in support of that  
 6 effort to site it here. I want to address a few issues  
 7 for the record.

GE-3

8 As you heard today, we have the strong support of  
 9 all those of our government officials from federal, state,  
 10 county to city. And we should be proud of that as elected  
 11 officials supporting this effort. Thank you.

12 You've heard briefly about the history of the  
 13 state in terms of the bases, but I think it's important to  
 14 state that the history of Arizona, as we celebrate its  
 15 centennial tomorrow, is that we have the Marines. They're  
 16 based out near Yuma. They have the Harriers down there,  
 17 and I understand they're going to be getting the F-35 down  
 18 there as well.

19 We have Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson  
 20 along with the Arizona Air National Guard based out there  
 21 as well. Of course you heard earlier from a gentleman of  
 22 Williams Air Force Base, which was also a proud training  
 23 base in the East Valley of this community. Of course, now  
 24 we have Luke Field and now Luke Air Force Base. I mention  
 25 that because we have to understand the big picture of the

1 entire ecosystem of the state, how we have supported  
 2 military operations throughout the history of Arizona.  
 3 And further, not just the actual bases, we also have to be  
 4 mindful that as our leaders make the decision to site the  
 5 mission here that they understand that we have the  
 6 businesses, the aerospace companies, the civilian side  
 7 that brings in the military, the vendors, the hardware,  
 8 the small businesses that make the little turbine for the  
 9 -- the parts for the aircraft. All this has been part of  
 10 the entire business civilian ecosystem for the state.

11 And all of you being here supporting the civilian  
 12 side and retired military officials and officers and  
 13 enlisteds support this mission as well. And also I want  
 14 to state for the record that the proximity of the space is  
 15 we're near the West Coast. So we also have flights coming  
 16 in from the Navy training at Aux field. Very important.

17 I want to also state that from an EIS point of  
 18 view that I have served on the Arizona Corporation  
 19 Commission which decides, for example, where new power  
 20 plants and power links are cited. They have to first show  
 21 that they're environmentally compatible. I want to state  
 22 for the record that the state of Arizona supports the  
 23 environment. As an example, through the power plant and  
 24 transmission siting committee, we make sure there's  
 25 environmental compatibility there. And so from a parallel

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1 is that we want to make sure, and the government officials  
2 also stated today for the record that they support that  
3 this base, the F-35A is also environmentally compatible.

4 And as we heard today that we want to make sure  
5 that all interests are addressed. And you here today and  
6 especially those that have raised concerns, I'm glad  
7 you've at least made yourself clear for the record. But  
8 please weigh the cost and the benefit is that the cost is  
9 minimal in terms of noise, a bit of a noise increase,  
10 versus the benefit that's our national security of our  
11 country. As you heard from Congressman Trent Franks, it  
12 is vital to the security of all of us in this country.

13 So let's go forward and ask all your friends in  
14 the next few hearings to chill out, come out, and also get  
15 your voices heard for the record, either publicly or also  
16 in a written form. So, again, in conclusion, I here stand  
17 in support of the F-35A mission to be sited at Luke Air  
18 Force Base.

GE-3

19 And thank you all for being there.

20 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Mr. Rich Crabb, Mr.  
21 Crabb.

3044 LU

22 MR. RICH CRABB: I'm Rich Crabb, a Litchfield  
23 Park resident, former Air Force brat, proud son of a  
24 Vietnam vet and retired NCO.

25 For those few of you that are here in service to

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1 yourself with critical critique, the military musical  
2 might be flight, a dance with decibels. Its trail a  
3 crescendo seeming a little intrusive at times to your golf  
4 or bridge game, cause for momentarily missing a dramatic  
5 line in a Nancy Grace exclusive, be thankful for your  
6 ability to choose your own safer place of self-assignment,  
7 one where you're not left to wonder whether the sound is  
8 ours or that of an enemy. Relax knowing that your only  
9 orders this week may be for more product or come from a  
10 magistrate and not a major, from a cattle bug and not a  
11 commander.

12 Those in service to our country, they might be a  
13 new neighbor, maybe young, a minority, a struggling  
14 family. But stationed by the Air Force, they are sent to  
15 war and separated by order from this entire nation.  
16 Deployed and redeployed and redeployed, they live each day  
17 with concern for a stateside spouse, often yearning for  
18 the sound of that screaming chorus of competing family  
19 voices, the Skyped missed melody of a daughter's recital  
20 or her first garbled words, a concern only for a young  
21 son's sound sleep, who in turn only too anxiously awaits  
22 next door to grumpy the singular sound of a jet bringing  
23 daddy or mommy safely back home or one that simply means  
24 they're never far away.

25 I think the great sacrifice of so few in this

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1 country is worthy of a little from the rest of us so that  
 2 they too may benefit from the full and unique resources,  
 3 services and supports only afforded by the Luke basing  
 4 option given its close proximity to many fine facilities,  
 5 institutions, venues and activities, community  
 6 organizations and businesses that we all appreciate and  
 7 enjoy every day. Now that makes sound sense to me. How  
 8 about all of you?

9 I thank you, Colonel. Thank you, Colonel, for  
 10 this opportunity to speak this evening in support of the  
 11 F-35, our active duty, their families, and the continued  
 12 Luke tradition and mission to train, deter and defend.  
 13 And in deference to all that have served, thank you.

GE-3

14 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Mr. Gerald Washburn.  
 15 Mr. Washburn. Mr. Washburn. Mr. Darrel Martin. Mr.  
 16 Martin.

3045 LU

17 MR. DARREL MARTIN: I have to tell you I'm not  
 18 going to be able to speak as eloquently as the others have  
 19 been up here. I am speaking from the heart. My name is  
 20 Darrel, D-a-r-r-e-l, Martin, M-a-r-t-i-n.

21 My wife grew up in this area, and I've recently  
 22 moved back from California. However, I have spent a lot  
 23 of time in a town that was very military-centered. And  
 24 what I have to say is that Luke has heritage here in the  
 25 Valley. I think we should pay homage to the heritage, to

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1 the people that serve, and we should really give the  
 2 opportunity for those to come to train and we will give  
 3 our thanks to them.

4 I do have to say that, albeit a little bit  
 5 nervous, I'm proud to represent my wife and my family in  
 6 saying that we love to hear the sound of freedom flying  
 7 overhead. We live about two miles from here, and we would  
 8 love to have the F-35A. So without further ado, I thank  
 9 you. And I sure hope --

GE-3

10 COL. GREGORY: Mr. Frank DeSomma. Here we go.  
 11 Right on the front row.

3046 LU

12 MR. FRANK DESOMMA: Yeah, right in the front.  
 13 My name's Frank Desomma, D-e-s-o-m-m-a. I moved  
 14 here as a kid from Brooklyn, New York, in '73. So this is  
 15 my home, Arizona, and what a wonderful state it is. And I  
 16 had the opportunity. I worked in aerospace. This is an  
 17 aerospace hub that's slowly being dismantled here, people,  
 18 because there's no jobs and work. We keep outsourcing or  
 19 out of the country. It's a great thing for hope and  
 20 change as we've been asked to do by our leaders. Well,  
 21 the only hope is we end up with some change when they're  
 22 done.

23 This is the first time I've seen real hope and  
 24 change for something positive in the state of Arizona.  
 25 When you have an opportunity to bring the technology of an

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1 aircraft like the F-35 that almost flies like a bird to  
2 the state. And it's an aircraft that can protect this  
3 nation and other nations as we do around the world. And  
4 to have hope of getting that and the change would be of  
5 improvement and securing and safeguarding this nation and  
6 this state. And by God, how close are we to the border  
7 here?

8 So it's a wonderful thing of having the  
9 opportunity and a chance for hope and change at this Air  
10 Force called Luke Air Force Base. And I hope and pray  
11 that we get this approved here because it would be nothing  
12 but a positive thing for our community, for our state, and  
13 obviously for this great nation. ] GE-3

14 Thank you.

15 COL. GREGORY: Let me recall those who did not  
16 respond when I first called your name just to make sure  
17 they didn't just leave temporarily.

18 Ms. Marilyn Censioso? Ms. Censioso? Mr. Peter  
19 DePasquale, Mr. Pasquale? Mr. Ed Artz, A-r-t-z. Mr.  
20 Artz, Rusty Artz. Chris Gorsuch, G-o-r-s-u-c-h. Don  
21 Reptoi. Charles Barber. Thomas Hillmer. Bill  
22 Walschlaeger. Margaret Blackmon. Ron Douglas. Woody  
23 Thomas? Gerald Washburn.

24 We have a few minutes left. Is there anyone who  
25 did not sign up to speak who's decided you would like to

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1 make a statement here?

2 Sir, could we get one of the cards, please. Oh,  
3 you've got some. Come on up, sir. Mr. John Wood. 3047 LU

4 MR. JOHN WOOD: Good evening, folks. Nice to see  
5 a lot of people are still here. I don't have to say much  
6 other than look at the bases around the country that are  
7 no longer bases. What's happened? They lost their  
8 mission. What will happen here? We'll lose our mission.  
9 Pollution? Noise pollution? You can have it next to a  
10 freeway. Smog? Go to southern California. We need the  
11 base. We need the airplane. ] GE-3

12 Thank you.

13 COL. GREGORY: Anyone else who has not had a  
14 chance to speak yet? Still have a few minutes. All  
15 right, ma'am.

16 MS. BARBARA PENHALLOW: I'm Barbara Penhallow and 3048 LU  
17 lived in Hawaii for 47 years. And it was early on in 1946  
18 that I first lived there and taught in a single-frame  
19 schoolhouse with the planes from Barbers Point Naval Air  
20 Station going overhead, and we would stop because we  
21 couldn't be heard.

22 And I think that Hawaii perhaps was the only part  
23 of the United States that was ever invaded by a foreign  
24 country, and people who remember December 7th know the  
25 sound of an engine that's not an American engine. And I

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1 can only say that whenever the planes went over, no matter  
2 how loud, they were ours. And that was a comforting thing  
3 to know.

4 Thank you.

5 COL. GREGORY: Mr. Alan Krob.

3049 LU

6 MR. ALAN KROB: Two quick points that came to my  
7 mind as I listened and appreciate very much the words of  
8 encouragement that we heard this evening. My wife and I  
9 moved here five years ago from the Midwest, left two --  
10 left our family with two granddaughters whom we cherish.  
11 You know, their safety and their future and all those  
12 children and grandchildren in our country depend on this  
13 kind of safety and security that this instrument of peace  
14 can bring.

15 The other thing I will mention to you is that we  
16 were in St. Louis 9/11. And the days following 9/11, if  
17 you recall, there was no air traffic. But some days we  
18 would hear air traffic. And the security and knowledge  
19 that they were ours, that's the kind of security that this  
20 brings us.

21 Thank you.

22 COL. GREGORY: Anyone else who's not had a chance  
23 to speak yet or would like to make a comment here tonight?  
24 We have just a few minutes left.

25 Mayor Scruggs, I know that the red card got you.

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1 Would you like another three minutes to -- no? You're  
2 good? Oh, we have another speaker.

3 MR. RICH DeLEON: Didn't plan on speaking.

4 COL. GREGORY: Rich DeLeon?

5 MR. RICH DeLEON: Correct.

6 COL. GREGORY: Mr. DeLeon.

3050 LU

7 MR. RICH DeLEON: Rich DeLeon, D-e-L-e-o-n. I  
8 guess I'm one of the few people that have been -- I was  
9 born and reared here in Glendale, so I've not never known  
10 Luke not to be here. Excuse my voice. I'm a little  
11 nervous.

12 But before Luke, there was place called  
13 Thunderbird training area which was located, I believe,  
14 59th Avenue and Thunderbird. Not too many people may know  
15 that, but Arizona has never known -- or I have never known  
16 a time when Air Force has not trained here. Before the  
17 Air Force, it was the Army Air Corps, of course, but  
18 they've always been here. So I've never known a time when  
19 they weren't, and I hate to see a time when they're not  
20 going to be here.

21 Luke Air Force Base is a great place to train  
22 pilots because of the weather in Arizona. The weather in  
23 Arizona is, what, 363 days a year, it's great. The  
24 training facility -- not when it's hot. But, hey, those  
25 guys have air conditioning, I'm sure. The training area

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1 at the Goldwater gunnery range is great. They've got  
2 great facilities out there, and the Marine Corps also  
3 trains out there.

4 And it's so good out here, even Great Britain  
5 sent their prince to train out at the gunnery range. So  
6 this is a great place to have the air -- to continue to  
7 have the training for the Air Force pilots, and the F-35A  
8 would be a great thing to have in Arizona here for us to  
9 continue to train these great pilots. And speaking as a  
10 former military person, you know, we can't say enough for  
11 the guys in the military.

GE-3

12 Thank you.

13 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Sir, did you want  
14 to --

3051 LU

15 MR. RICHARD LANDIS: Yes.

16 COL. GREGORY: -- make a comment? All right.  
17 Mr. Landis, come on up.

18 MR. RICHARD LANDIS: Thank you.

19 COL. GREGORY: Mr. Richard Landis.

20 MR. RICHARD LANDIS: Thank you. My name is  
21 Richard Landis, Dick Landis. I live here in Litchfield  
22 Park. I've been here for almost 20 years now, and it has  
23 been an amazing adventure as we have watched Luke grow and  
24 change. And now we're at a wonderful point of trying to  
25 decide where do we go from here. I have two perspectives

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1 to tell you about.

2 One is that I served with the State in Yuma,  
3 Arizona, and I watched the Marine Corps Air Force Base use  
4 the military range between Yuma and Gila Bend. And since  
5 then, I came to Arizona, and I watched Luke Air Force Base  
6 use the range between Luke Air Force Base and Yuma. And I  
7 have to tell you, there is no place that I know of on  
8 earth that can provide that kind of military training  
9 opportunity, that kind of wide open space that we have as  
10 part of our state of Arizona. And it is a truly unique  
11 opportunity that makes Luke Air Force Base unique from  
12 anyplace else.

13 There are, you know, planes that can come from  
14 everywhere else, but they take off from Luke Air Force  
15 Base. In minutes, they're in training grounds that just  
16 simply don't exist anyplace else. I've watched Luke grow.  
17 I've watched Luke change. I've watched Luke become a  
18 better place. We've watched the F-16s. And now it's time  
19 for the F-35. And I urge you. I urge the United States  
20 Air Force. I urge the government to approve this as a  
21 wonderful, wonderful place for the F-35.

GE-3

22 Ladies and gentlemen, thank you.

23 COL. GREGORY: Anyone else? Anyone else? Let me  
24 make sure. Anyone that hasn't already had an opportunity  
25 to speak?

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1 Ma'am, come on down.

3052 LU

2 MS. ELAINE WEINBERG: Okay. My name is Elaine  
3 Weinberg. I was born and raised in Phoenix. My first  
4 episode at Luke Air Force Base was in 1942 when my mother  
5 decided to do her duty for the war effort. She became a  
6 mechanic on the airplanes. Well, I didn't go back again  
7 until in the '50s when I was a little older. And I met a  
8 lot of wonderful people out there, a lot of fellows, and I  
9 ended up marrying one of them, but he's gone now.

10 And if he were still around, he would be  
11 delighted if he could again fly an F-35 because he's flown  
12 everything else. And he's up there now watching, and I  
13 think we really need the F-35 here. ] GE-3

14 I love to watch them fly over my house. I live  
15 in Surprise, and I search the skies until I see them.  
16 You've got to watch ahead of the sound. I've learned  
17 quite a bit about that. We lost one good deal from Luke  
18 Air Force Base some time ago. Many of you have seen the  
19 Thunderbirds. Well, they were originated at Luke back in  
20 the '50s, and now they belong to Nellis. And that, I  
21 don't like. So anyway we've got to have the 35s. ] GE-3

22 Thank you.

23 COL. GREGORY: Mr. Rob Goodwin.

24 MR. ROB GOODWIN: It's actually Godwin.

25 COL. GREGORY: Oh, I'm sorry.

3053 LU

1 MR. ROB GOODWIN: That's okay. G-o-d-w-i-n.  
2 Yeah, I was wanting to speak. It was important, the F-35  
3 as well. One of the reasons I wanted to come here tonight  
4 is besides being a West Valley resident, I was reading the  
5 West Valley View on Friday. And the headlines said, "F-35  
6 twice as loud as the F-16," which I thought was kind of  
7 disingenuous. I think the West Valley mayors for the last  
8 two years have done a really good job at keeping the land  
9 use management for the contours, the sound contours,  
10 they've kept development away from these, you know, the  
11 flight pattern areas.

12 And I think between that and perfect weather and  
13 the 365 days of sunshine a year and the vast expanse of  
14 desert we have, I still think Arizona is just the perfect  
15 place to have the F-35. I think it's a symbiotic  
16 relationship between the West Valley and Luke Air Force  
17 Base. ] GE-3

18 Like everyone's been saying, Luke Air Force Base  
19 has been here since the '40s and back when we were a very  
20 small farming community. So we've kind of grown together.  
21 And I think, like I said before, the mayors of the cities  
22 have done a good job at preparing for the future. And I  
23 think with that, I think the F-35 is the perfect -- and  
24 the plane should come here because I think we need Luke  
25 Air Force Base to continue like it has. So I just want to ] GE-3

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GE-3  
cont'd

1 speak in support of it.

2 Thank you.

3 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Anyone else who's not  
4 had an opportunity to speak yet? Anyone else? Sir?  
5 We'll have to get you to fill out a card.

6 Thank you. The floor is yours.

3054 LU

7 MR. LARRY SCRUGGS: I wasn't going to say  
8 anything, but the last speaker happened to hit one of my  
9 last frazzled nerves that I've got. The press wants to  
10 sensationalize. They want to sell newspapers. And they  
11 always take the attack similar to that, "The F-35 is going  
12 to be twice as loud as the F-16." And something else that  
13 I also thought of because there's still a lot of people  
14 here. I think probably most everybody that's left would  
15 be ambassadors for the program. And how many of us, you  
16 know, have a background in sound and electronics and then  
17 what have you.

18 Here's something that if you go to explain this  
19 to your friends and neighbors after they read that it's  
20 going to be twice as loud as the F-16, the human ear can  
21 only respond to a 3 DB increase in sound. So what I'm  
22 saying is if you have 6 DB and your radio is planning or  
23 whatever, you turn that to 9 DB, that's -- human ear will  
24 only perceive an increase after 3 DB. So what this really  
25 means is the 9 DB, picture a very small incremental

NO-9

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NO-9  
cont'd

1 increase from the first 3 DB. And if you can, you know,  
2 hear another perceptible increase, that's 6 DB. 3 DB  
3 more, yet another small -- and I think that goes to what  
4 Lisa Atkins was saying because she said she heard them at  
5 Eglin, I guess. So let's try to debunk that over the  
6 press. They'll, you know, get with that rather than  
7 coming out and making irresponsible statements like it's,  
8 you know, twice as loud as the F-16.

9 Thank you.

10 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Anyone else who hasn't  
11 had an opportunity to speak yet? Mr. Wong, I have time  
12 for one quick reattempt.

3043 LU

13 MR. BARRY WONG: I thought I would be up again.  
14 Barry Wong.

15 For the record, I think it's important for me to  
16 put on the record two points I missed earlier. One is  
17 with our international partners. You mentioned nine  
18 countries that have all -- our allies have purchased the  
19 F-35 is that with them coming to train here, I just want  
20 to make -- let the decision makers know that we have a  
21 vibrant international community in Arizona. Whether  
22 Americans that have traveled abroad to support  
23 international efforts or foreign nationals that live here  
24 and work here, people that participate in many sister  
25 cities programs we have among the different cities is that

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1 we are here to support their efforts as well.

2 A case in point is currently with the F-16 at  
3 Luke Air Force Base, the government of Singapore has their  
4 air force training here. And also the government of  
5 Taiwan has their Air Force training here, and they've been  
6 here. They're a major supporter of Luke of obviously  
7 training their pilots. But also on the civilian side,  
8 they have support culturally as well as socially outside  
9 the walls. So I want to make that clear for the record.

10 The second point I want to make is that Luke Air  
11 Force Base, the wing commander currently as well as many  
12 in the past have been active in external relations. What  
13 I mean by that is everything that happens outside of the  
14 wall is that, in the past, that hasn't always been the  
15 case because everything that happened inside the wall,  
16 that was it. That was all they cared about. That has  
17 changed over the years. In fact, Luke Air Force Base's  
18 system has become a model within the AETC as a example of  
19 other bases that follow what we're doing here. And in  
20 fact, Luke Air Force Base wing commander has actually  
21 assigned a person to be the community initiatives person  
22 for things that happen outside the wall. They cannot, as  
23 active duty personnel, say that and promote to get the  
24 F-35. So that's why I'm speaking because I'm also a  
25 former honorary commander of Luke Air Force Base, and I

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1 personally have seen what they have done in their support  
2 of external relations.

3 So I want to make that very clear for the record  
4 is that that's the culture of Luke Air Force Base and the  
5 wing commander that care about what happens outside the  
6 wall.

7 Thank you.

8 COL. GREGORY: Thank you, Mr. Wong. I want to  
9 thank every speaker for helping us follow our time lines  
10 we were able to get in everyone who wanted to speak here  
11 tonight. I want to thank you for your time and interest  
12 in the F-35A training basing EIS proposal.

13 And, again, tonight is not the end of your  
14 opportunity to participate in the environmental review  
15 process. Written comment sheets are available at the  
16 registration table. You can turn these in tonight, or you  
17 can mail and fax them later. The address and fax number  
18 and all that is on the sheet.

19 The Air Force welcomes public comments in writing  
20 at any time during the environmental impact analysis  
21 process. To receive timely consideration for the final  
22 EIS, let me foot stomp this: All comments must be  
23 submitted by March the 14th, 2012. And that's the mail  
24 box rule. Once they're postmarked that day, they count.  
25 So March the 14th, 2012. And there being no further

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1 speakers, this hearing is adjourned. Thank you.

2

3 (Hearing adjourned)

4

5 PUBLIC COMMENTS

6

7 (The following are oral comments received by  
8 the Court Reporter outside of the presence  
9 of the hearing officer before the hearing  
10 commenced.)

11

3055 LU

12 ROCHELLE SWARTZ: The planes fly right over my  
13 house, sometimes four at a time. And I appreciate the  
14 fact that they're up there protecting me. I know some  
15 people kind of resent it. Some of my neighbors don't care  
16 for it. But, you know, I look at the greater good. But  
17 yet I want to keep my hearing safe. Don't want my house  
18 walls shaking and cracking, house walls and ceilings and  
19 foundations and stuff cracking and breaking and all that  
20 from the vibration. Okay.

NO-6

NO-12

21 And is this going to take away from my already  
22 depleted property value? You know, I mean, I have the  
23 noise now. But with more noise, is that going to  
24 negatively affect it even more?

SO-1

25 And then I was concerned. I don't have

BI-5

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1 livestock. I have a bird and two cats. But I was brought  
2 up on a farm. And I know anything and everything scares  
3 chickens. They're kind of brainless creatures. But I  
4 was, you know, concerned about the horses and the cows and  
5 that kind of stuff that they're not unduly stressed.

BI-5  
cont'd

6 And that's about it. I just want to have a nice  
7 compromise so everybody can be happy. But yet I don't  
8 want to -- I don't want to lose on my house's value. I  
9 mean, it's like bought my house in 2004, and it's worth  
10 like half. So, you know, I just want things to go well.

SO-1

11 And I understand that Tucson is an alternative  
12 location, and I think there's one in North or South  
13 Carolina. And Tucson would also keep the money in the  
14 state. But I understand that one place is going to be  
15 like a training center which they want Luke to be. And  
16 the other one an actual like fake combat center or such,  
17 for want of a better description.

18 And I think I would kind of like it as a training  
19 center more than, which is what they're proposing now.  
20 You know, but it's just that sound, the level of the sound  
21 that concerns me. Can they put a muffler on it? Would  
22 cut down on the sound? Go to any car dealership. They  
23 can do it; right.

NO-20

3037 LU

24 HARRY COOK: My name is Harry Cook. I'm a  
25 retired marine. I'm here to support the F-35. Based on

GE-3

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1 my military career, my combat was in Korea and I survived  
 2 that on two occasions from close air support. They were  
 3 not jets. We didn't have jets helping us. But close air  
 4 support is close air support no matter how you get it.  
 5 And the only reason I survived was because the planes came  
 6 in and chased the Chinese away. And I just think it's a  
 7 necessary thing for the country's defense.

8 I have a close association, though, with jet  
 9 airplanes. Right out of boot camp, I went to what they  
 10 call sea school, and I went aboard a carrier. They had  
 11 marines in those days aboard all capitals. And in 1948 or  
 12 '49, we had the first jet squadron in naval history aboard  
 13 our carrier, and they didn't bother me a bit.

3028 LU

14 JOHN CHLOPEK: My name is John Chlopek. I live  
 15 in Surprise, Arizona. And my comment is that I would love  
 16 to keep Luke Air Force Base open, bring the F-35A for  
 17 pilot training. It's the only way their mission and Luke  
 18 can stay prosperous and preserve the future of the West  
 19 Valley.

GE-3

20 Being from Illinois, we suffered with the closure  
 21 of Glenview Naval Air Station; the air guard base at  
 22 O'Hare; and Fort Sheridan, Illinois. And it was  
 23 financially impacted and hurt many people. As long as  
 24 Luke thrives, I think the West Valley will be stable and  
 25 continue to expand and prosper.

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3056 LU

1 Thank you.  
 2 EDWARD JAMES ARTZ: My name is Edward James Artz,  
 3 A-r-t-z. I live at Russell Ranch, which is right here,  
 4 (indicating), outside of the sound pressure contours.

5 So the comment that I have is that the  
 6 environmental impact study is using these sound pressure  
 7 level contours as the basis for the environmental impact  
 8 study. However, our experience is that there are a lot of  
 9 jets that leave that contour. They fly directly over our  
 10 house, not at glide path levels but full acceleration,  
 11 full bank turns and very low levels. And it's not only  
 12 dangerous. It's extremely noisy. It shakes the whole  
 13 house.

AM-3  
NO-62

14 And my comment is that if they could stay within  
 15 the area that they're saying the environmental impact  
 16 study is based on, that would be a big relief to us as  
 17 part of the community. Okay? I'd like to offer to have  
 18 some sound pressure level monitoring equipment placed at  
 19 our house so that they could see what the actual levels  
 20 are.

21 And I'd like to request that they rethink these  
 22 sound pressure contours that they're advertising in this  
 23 environmental impact study because I believe that they're  
 24 fallacious. They're not -- they're not correct. And they  
 25 should be readjusted to accurately reflect what's

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1 happening, not what they'd like to happen because right  
2 now the leadership is not controlling the pilots within  
3 these boundaries. Okay.

AM-3  
NO-62  
cont'd

4  
5 (The following is an oral comment made after  
6 formal hearing was concluded outside the  
7 presence of the hearing officer.)

8  
9 SHARON PAGE: My name is Sharon Page, P-a-g-e.  
10 I'm a registered nurse with Banner Health, and I would  
11 like to say that the nurses at Banner Health love to take  
12 care of military families.

3057 LU

13 I've been living here 15 years. I enjoy having  
14 military families as my neighbors and having my son attend  
15 school with military families. We really enjoy -- they  
16 bring richness beyond measure to our community, and I've  
17 learned to have a new appreciation for the military living  
18 amongst them, and so we don't want to see them go. And I  
19 hope they stay, and I hope we get the F-35 project here  
20 because it means a lot to our community, and we really,  
21 truly appreciate all of you. Thank you.

GE-3

22  
23 (Public Hearing and Oral comments concluded)  
24  
25

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1 STATE OF ARIZONA )  
2 ) ss.  
3 COUNTY OF MARICOPA )

4 I DEBORAH CLEARY, do hereby certify that the  
5 foregoing Transcript of Proceedings constitute a true and  
6 accurate transcript of the proceedings had in the  
7 foregoing matter, all done to the best of my skill and  
8 ability.

9 DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 2nd day of  
10 March, 2012.

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Deborah Cleary, RPR/CR  
Certified Reporter  
Certificate No. 50663

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**D.8.5 Transcript from the Luke Air Force Base Public Hearing Held  
February 14, 2012, in El Mirage, Arizona**

Page 1

U.S. AIR FORCE BASE F-35A TRAINING BASING EIS

PUBLIC HEARING/PUBLIC COMMENTS

BEFORE HEARING OFFICER

COL. RON GREGORY

El Mirage, Arizona

February 14, 2012

6:00 p.m.

Reported by: Deborah Cleary, RPR/CR  
Certified Reporter  
Certification No. 50663

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1 THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT SESSION was  
2 taken on February 14, 2012, commencing at 6:00 p.m. at El  
3 Mirage Elementary School, 13500 N. El Mirage Road, School  
4 Gym, El Mirage, Arizona, before Deborah Cleary, RPR, CR, a  
5 Certified Reporter in the State of Arizona.

6 \* \* \*

7 A P P E A R A N C E S

8  
9 COLONEL RON GREGORY

10 United States Air Force

11 Hearing Officer

12  
13 COLONEL ROBERT WEBB

14 Vice Commander 56th Fighter Wing

15 Luke Air Force Base

16  
17 MR. DAVID MARTIN

18 Civilian Contractor

19 Air Education and Training Command

20 Project Manager for the F-35A

21 Training Basing Environmental Impact Study

22  
23  
24  
25  
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1 written comments to this address up here. All of this  
2 information is provided on the comment form and on the  
3 project website.

4 This concludes the briefing part of the hearing.  
5 I thank you for your attention. Now I'd like to turn this  
6 back over to Col. Gregory.

7 COL. GREGORY: Thanks, David. We'll now move  
8 into the public comment part of the hearing, and here's  
9 how that works. I used these speaker sign-up cards that  
10 those of you who want to speak filled out to call folks up  
11 to the mic. If you'd like to make a comment here tonight  
12 up here at the mic and haven't yet filled out one of these  
13 cards, just raise your hand and we'll get you one to fill  
14 out. Just let one of the Air Force reps know if you need  
15 a card. Also I have some up here.

16 You need a card?

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Please.

18 COL. GREGORY: All right. If we've heard from  
19 all the speakers before 8:00 p.m., the scheduled time for  
20 the hearing to conclude, what I'll do is recess the  
21 hearing and Ms. Cleary and I will remain here at the table  
22 until 8:00 p.m. to take your statement if you decide later  
23 that you'd like to make a statement on the record here  
24 tonight.

25 The procedure gives three minutes to each

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1 speaker. When I call your name, please come up. Come on  
 2 up to the mic, and Allison, seated here, will start the  
 3 clock when you're ready. To help Ms. Cleary, please begin  
 4 by stating your name and the name of the organization, if  
 5 any, that you represent. It will also help her out if  
 6 you'd spell your last name. Please don't provide any  
 7 other personal information like your home address or your  
 8 telephone number. Again, your comments are recorded  
 9 verbatim. They're used to develop a transcript and  
 10 permanent record of this hearing and will be published in  
 11 the final EIS. Your name will be included along with your  
 12 comments and will be in the final EIS, but your personal  
 13 home address and phone number will not be published in the  
 14 final EIS.

15 Of course, you don't have to speak for the full  
 16 three minutes. To help you keep track of the time,  
 17 Allison will show you a yellow card when you have about 30  
 18 seconds left and a red card when time is up. At that  
 19 time, please go ahead and conclude your comments at that  
 20 point so I can call on the next person. You don't need to  
 21 yield any remaining time to someone else. I'll just move  
 22 on to the next speaker. Also, it just takes too much time  
 23 to set up any individual electronic presentations, but  
 24 those can certainly be submitted as written comments  
 25 later.

1 Tonight's hearing, as I said, is set to end at  
 2 8:00 p.m. If everyone who signed up to speak has had a  
 3 chance to do so before that time, I'll ask if any speaker  
 4 would like another three minutes to expand on their  
 5 earlier comments. If you want to do that, just let me  
 6 know at that time and I'll put another three minutes back  
 7 on the clock for you. Again, Ms. Cleary and I will remain  
 8 here at the table to take your statement if you decide you  
 9 want to comment after we recess the hearing.

10 If you want to add something later to your oral  
 11 comments or if you'd rather not speak here tonight, you can  
 12 submit written comments at any time up to March 14th,  
 13 2012. I understand they use the mailbox rule on that. As  
 14 long as it's postmarked by that date, it's considered on  
 15 time. There's no page limit on written comments, and the  
 16 Air Force gives equal weight to oral and written comments.  
 17 Both become part of the official record and are included  
 18 in the final EIS.

19 Just a few reminders before we get started.  
 20 First, please limit your comments to the draft EIS that is  
 21 the purpose of this public comment period. Second, if you  
 22 agree with a previous speaker on something, you can  
 23 certainly say that, but you don't need to use up your time  
 24 repeating it since it's already in the record.

25 Finally, as I mentioned earlier, this isn't a Q&A

1 session. It's an opportunity for you to put on the record  
2 your views and your concerns about the proposal that you  
3 want the decision makers to consider. Any questions that  
4 you pose during your comments will become part of the  
5 record and will be considered.

6 After we're finished with the formal part of  
7 this, Air Force reps will continue to be available to  
8 discuss things with you over in the other room where all  
9 the posters are set up. And with that, I'll call our  
10 first speaker.

11 Mayor Mook.

12 PUBLIC COMMENTS

3058 LU

13 MAYOR LANA MOOK: Before I get started tonight, I  
14 would like to introduce a few people who serve with me on  
15 our council. So when I call your name, holler out or  
16 raise your hand so people know who you are.

17 Council Member James McPhetres over there by the  
18 wall; Council Member and Vice Mayor David Shapera -- Lynn,  
19 where are you? Lynn Selby, council member, there he is.  
20 I know that Joe Ramirez is home sick with the flu. Anyone  
21 else here? Oh, Jack Palladino, stand up, Jack. There he  
22 is. Okay. I think that's it, isn't it? Oh, Roy Delgado,  
23 there he is. Thank you, council member.

24 I've been asked tonight to talk about regional  
25 cooperation. So I, too, am going to read a prepared

1 statement here so that it all gets into the record.

2 The cities and towns located within the vicinity  
3 of Luke Air Force Base have successfully worked together  
4 over several decades to help ensure responsible land use  
5 planning around the air base. Most recently, the  
6 communities near Luke Air Force Base formed the West  
7 Valley Partners to retain appropriate federal  
8 representation in Washington, DC, to advocate for funding,  
9 legislation, and awareness. These communities are  
10 Avondale, Buckeye, El Mirage, Glendale, Gila Bend,  
11 Goodyear, Litchfield Park, Maricopa County, Peoria,  
12 Phoenix, Surprise, Tolleson, Wickenburg, and Youngtown.

13 The goal of the West Valley Partners is to  
14 preserve the current and future missions at Luke Air Force  
15 Base. Over the past few years, these efforts have  
16 resulted in over \$11,000,000 in federal appropriations to  
17 the base and to the Barry M. Goldwater range.

18 Furthermore, elected officials in all 91 Arizona  
19 cities and towns have signed a resolution supporting the  
20 future mission of Luke Air Force Base. The Luke Forward  
21 campaign will continue until the first squadron of F-35s  
22 arrives here at Luke.

23 In October 2009 as part of the West Valley  
24 Partners' efforts, they kicked off Luke Forward, a  
25 statewide campaign focused on securing the new F-35 here

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Page 24

1 at the base. The purpose of the Luke Forward campaign is  
 2 to send a clear, consistent, and strong message to the  
 3 Department of Defense that Arizona strongly supports Luke  
 4 Air Force Base as the nation's premier fighter training  
 5 facility and will continue to raise this awareness of  
 6 Luke's critical role in national defense and our state's  
 7 economy.

GE-3  
cont'd

8 The Basis Community Initiatives Team, an  
 9 operation unique to the Air Force at Luke, meets regularly  
 10 with local and state officials, community groups, Sky  
 11 Harbor airport, the FAA officials to coordinate and plan  
 12 as well as identify and address issues before they become  
 13 problematic.

14 Luke Air Force Base is also an active member of  
 15 the Phoenix aviation users working group which holds  
 16 quarterly meetings. This forum allows enhanced  
 17 communication between the base and local, state, and  
 18 federal airspace agencies. These meetings have produced  
 19 multiple examples of coordination such as the seamless  
 20 flow of fighter aircraft to and from Goldwater range  
 21 airspace south of the base. Commercial flights routinely  
 22 stay above the fighter corridor without any conflicts.

23 So as you can see, we in the West Valley have a  
 24 unique working relationship with Luke Air Force Base. We  
 25 want Luke to remain the best training base for fighter

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1 pilots in the world and to train the majority of F-35  
 2 pilots. Please help us send that message to the  
 3 Department of Defense.

GE-3  
cont'd

4 Thank you.

5 COL. GREGORY: Thank you, ma'am. Next,  
 6 Representative Debbie Lesko.

3059 LU

7 REP. DEBBIE LESKO: For the record, my name is  
 8 State Representative Debbie Lesko. I'm the house majority  
 9 whip in the Arizona legislature. I represent parts of  
 10 Glendale, parts of Peoria, all of Sun City, all of  
 11 Youngtown. And if I get reelected, I'll be representing  
 12 El Mirage as well with the new redistricting.

13 I want to say publicly that I support the F-35  
 14 mission here at Luke Air Force Base. I think it's very  
 15 important not only for the sustainability of the base in  
 16 the long-term future but also for the West Valley and the  
 17 entire state. And because of that, I plan to introduce a  
 18 resolution in the legislature in support of the F-35  
 19 mission at Luke Air Force Base. And I'm sure we will get  
 20 that passed soon.

GE-3

21 Thank you.

22 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Mayor Georgia Lord,  
 23 Mayor of Goodyear.

3060 LU

24 MAYOR GEORGIA LORD: Thank you. Good evening.  
 25 I'm Georgia Lord, the mayor of the City of Goodyear. I

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1 take great pleasure in coming here tonight to support Luke  
2 Air Force Base's F-35 mission. You know, there are many  
3 reasons why Luke should be selected. It just makes good  
4 sense because Arizona is the only state that has gone to  
5 the extent to adopting state law specifically designed to  
6 prevent the future encroachment around its military bases.  
7 This provided an installation such as Luke to be able to  
8 have this new mission. And we all know how great the  
9 Barry Goldwater training area is. My husband was here in  
10 the '60s training pilots and giving them checkouts at Luke  
11 Air Force Base.

GE-3  
cont'd

12 The west community, as Mayor Mook said, has  
13 banded together in the past to protect Luke's future in  
14 our region. And we have gone through periods of rapid  
15 growth together. We have remained focused on promoting  
16 economic development in a smart fashion in order to  
17 protect Luke's ability to carry out the mission.

18 Goodyear is known as the proud protector of the  
19 Luke southern corridor. We committed in 2003 \$3.5 million  
20 to save 3,722 acres so that it would not be zoned for  
21 housing or businesses. It would protect the interests of  
22 Luke Air Force Base.

23 Now as an Air Force wife following my husband  
24 around almost 30 years, let me tell you something that is  
25 extremely important we have. We have a community who

1 cares about the men and women of our forces. We have a  
2 community who organizes activities for them. We have  
3 community who absolutely donates when their needs are  
4 there. Whether it be food, clothing, whether it be  
5 school, whether it be some kind of activity that the base  
6 needs, we're there for them.

7 I'm going to tell you in a time of need when  
8 troops are overseas, when the men and women are fighting,  
9 and I have been on that other side of the wife left at  
10 home while my husband was gone for a year, sometimes six,  
11 eight months at a whack. And it's so important when you  
12 as individuals reach out a helping hand to military  
13 families. And that's what we've done in the West Valley.  
14 We are known for that. And I just don't think the  
15 military can find a better place to place this mission for  
16 the F-35 because you just have a vast group of people who  
17 care.

GE-3

18 Thank you very much for letting me have this  
19 opportunity.

20 COL. GREGORY: Mayor Mike LeVault of Youngtown.

3061 LU

21 MAYOR MICHAEL LeVAULT: For the record, my name  
22 is Michael LeVault, L-e, capital V-a-u-l-t. I am the  
23 mayor of Youngtown. I want to start by reiterating  
24 something that Mayor Mook just said earlier. You know, as  
25 often happens, sometimes communities disagree about

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1 things. But I want to assure you that on this issue, on  
 2 supporting the base and its endeavor to attract the F-35,  
 3 we've worked hard the last several years to close ranks in  
 4 support of the base. I want to assure you that every  
 5 community in the West Valley and, as far as I know, every  
 6 community in the Valley is in full support and working the  
 7 same side of the street on this issue.

8 You know, if I were to stand up here and list the  
 9 attributes that I think uniquely qualify Luke for the F-35  
 10 mission, it would be a long list. Let me touch on just a  
 11 few of them.

12 First of all, you have the base's proximity to  
 13 the Phoenix megaplex. That means that it's well suited  
 14 from a transportation standpoint with easy access to I-10,  
 15 I-17 and loops 101 and 303. That also, that proximity to  
 16 the Phoenix megaplex, also means that all of the airmen  
 17 and women at the base, they have access to all of the  
 18 amenities of a world class city.

19 You also have the operational advantages of Luke.  
 20 You have our weather here that is uniquely suited, I  
 21 think, because we have, I don't know, something like 350  
 22 days filled with sunshine that are ideal for flying. Our  
 23 terrain approximates what the pilots are likely to  
 24 encounter when they fly in the Middle East. And if I'm  
 25 not mistaken, most of the pilots that are flying in the

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1 Middle East theater have been trained here at Luke. You  
 2 also have Luke's proximity to the Barry M. Goldwater  
 3 bombing range, and there is no other asset like the BMG  
 4 range in the world. That is something that cannot be  
 5 replicated. And it's right here at the back door of Luke  
 6 Air Force Base.

7 So I would say, you know, from a couple of  
 8 aspects, when you look at the advantage to the -- you  
 9 know, if you look at this thing selfishly, look at the  
 10 advantage to the Valley and to the state in terms of the  
 11 economic engine that Luke provides, it's something like  
 12 \$2.3 billion a year. But more importantly, look at the  
 13 advantage from a national security standpoint.

14 These pilots are being well trained in an  
 15 environment that I think is not replicatable anywhere  
 16 else. So I'm fully in support of the F-35 coming to Luke.  
 17 I stand up here and I speak on behalf of the vast majority  
 18 of my residents and the unanimous support of my council.

19 Thank you.

20 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Ms. Lisa Atkins of the  
 21 Governor's Military Affairs Commission.

3062 LU

22 MS. LISA ATKINS: Good evening. My name is Lisa  
 23 Atkins, A-t, as in Tom, k-i-n-s. I'm the co-chair and  
 24 have been the co-chair of the Governor's Military Affairs  
 25 Commission for the last five or six years and continue to

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1 serve in that capacity.

2 I appreciate the fact that the Air Force is here  
3 in town listening to the folks who live in and around the  
4 West Valley and who know Luke Air Force Base firsthand.  
5 More importantly, these are the faces of the people who  
6 actually contribute to the well-being of not only the Air  
7 Force but the men and women who serve.

8 About two years ago, I was asked by the commander  
9 of Air Education and Training Command as one of two civic  
10 leaders in Arizona to travel to Florida to Eglin Air Force  
11 Base. And I'm glad to be here tonight in response to what  
12 I saw in the EIS as the noise information which, to me,  
13 appears to be computer modeling.

14 The reason I'm here tonight is to put on the  
15 record that I, in fact, am one of two civilians in the  
16 state of Arizona who have actually heard the F-35. I had  
17 the pleasure of doing so in February of 2010. And during  
18 the operations, we were very close to the flight line. In  
19 the pattern, was an F-16, an F-18, and the F-35. And  
20 personally I can tell you that I heard no appreciable  
21 difference in the sound, which is far different from  
22 personally being able to hear it than seeing numbers on a  
23 piece of paper.

24 Secondly, I'd like to refer to the mayors'  
25 comments when they talk about the community support for

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1 the Air Force and what we've done working together. I'd  
2 like to remind those of you who may be new to the area but  
3 certainly those of you who have been around for a while  
4 and know the interaction between the communities and the  
5 Air Force that the lines that are in state statute were  
6 groundbreaking lines as far as this state leading all  
7 others states in the nation as far as compatibility and  
8 potential for protecting private property rights and  
9 allowing each one of our military installations to fulfill  
10 on all of their mission but to protect and enhance those  
11 missions in the long run.

12 The lines that are in state statutes that have  
13 been referred to tonight are lines that are not  
14 fabricated. They're not off of a model. They are in fact  
15 actual noise levels that the communities that surround the  
16 base have known, have lived with, and have accepted based  
17 on the F-15 noise levels. And I can tell you from  
18 experience in having been through these discussions for a  
19 number of years that the F-35 will be accommodated well  
20 under those lines.

21 Thank you all for taking the time tonight.  
22 Again, as the mayor said, coming out on the centennial and  
23 also on Valentines Day, what a great show of support for  
24 the Air Force and the F-35.

25 Thank you.

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**Final**  
**June 2012**

1 COL. GREGORY: Mr. Charlie Freericks of DMB  
2 Associates.

3 MR. CHARLIE FREERICKS: For the record, my name 3063 LU  
4 is Charlie Freericks, F-r-e-e-r-i-c-k-s. I'm here tonight  
5 representing my company, DMB Associates, Inc. Our  
6 company, DMB Associates, is proud to support the  
7 operations of Luke Air Force Base and the men and women  
8 who serve and train there.

9 DMB Associates has developed two communities in  
10 the West Valley, both near Luke Air Force Base. And our  
11 residents and our company in Verrado, which is located in  
12 the town of Buckeye on the southern departure corridor, GE-3  
13 and Marley Park, which is located in Surprise along the  
14 northern departure corridor, are proud to support this  
15 decision on the F-35.

16 In addition to having these communities  
17 developing in the West Valley, we actually have many  
18 members from Luke Air Force Base, civilian and military  
19 employees, living in our communities.

20 When our communities began development many years  
21 ago, we understood and appreciated the significance of  
22 Luke's operations for the West Valley and all of our  
23 state. In fact, we worked very closely with Rusty  
24 Mitchell, who's here somewhere this evening, and the  
25 civilian initiatives team -- community initiatives team.

1 Excuse me, Rusty -- starting in 1998 in anticipation of  
2 zoning both of our communities. We wanted to ensure the  
3 long-term compatibility with Luke Air Force Base.

4 Our buyers and residents, because we took a  
5 little bit of an extra step, understand that the  
6 operations of Luke Air Force Base are right next door and  
7 active. In laymen's terms, we have pictures and exhibits  
8 in our community information centers explaining to people  
9 that there's a base nearby and that it's active. We have  
10 information to connect them with the base, an information  
11 office there.

12 In addition, in our contracts when we sell  
13 properties to people, to homeowners, we disclose in  
14 writing and we created a step working with the CIT to make  
15 sure that people understand that the first time they buy  
16 the home and then it's recorded for future sales like many  
17 of you have experienced here in the West Valley.

18 In spite of thousands of residents in our  
19 communities, we are proud to say that we have never had  
20 one noise complaint or complaint of any kind against Luke  
21 Air Force Base, and that's dating back to 1998. In fact,  
22 we enjoy many community partnerships with Luke Air Force  
23 Base similar to those described by the mayors that have  
24 come up here to support the men and women of the base.

25 The importance of this mission to Arizona's